

PROVIDENCE



Students participating in the Green Dot program which studies the impact of violence in our culture, from bullying to dating violence.

PROVIDENCE e-VISION NEWS

December 18, 2012

News for Parents, Alumni and Friends of Providence

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL - A Reflection

Dear Providence Community:

I would like to take an opportunity to wish all a holy and joy-filled Christmas. It is a blessing to share in this ministry with faculty & staff, students, parents, alumni, the New Albany parishes and schools, and the many supporters of Our Lady of Providence Jr. - Sr. High School.

Working on behalf of our young people has taken on a greater depth of meaning this week. I know that all of us are keeping the community of Newtown, Connecticut in our prayers this Christmas. In a prayer service held at Providence on Monday, these words were offered as the closing prayer:

"God of life and love, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, who taught us about your love. We ask you to send the Holy Spirit to remind us of all that Jesus taught. You call us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to love our enemies. Strengthen us with your powerful, uplifting, life-giving love, so that we are able to take your love into our broken world, and transform it into a world of love and peace. We make this prayer in the strong name of Jesus, our Teacher, our Brother and our Risen Lord. Amen." (From the National Catholic Education Association)

It is difficult to know how to honor the many lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As principal I have turned to prayer and a recommitment to provide a safe and secure environment for the students at Providence. Like so many other schools, we will take time to re-evaluate our emergency plans and most likely will make changes in light

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of this terrible tragedy. In addition, we will be holding a parent information evening in January on the topic of student safety and substance abuse. More information will be forthcoming in the January report card letter.

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Peace,
Dr. Mindy Ernstberger, Ed.D
Principal*

STUDENTS IN ACTION

STUDENTS CONTINUE GREEN DOT TRAINING

Although the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., is far removed geographically from our students, they still feel the impact. They also feel the impact of violence in our culture, from bullying to dating violence. About 40 of our students are receiving training on how to change that culture of violence, one person at a time.

This fall, Providence was chosen as one of the schools participating in the Green Dot program, sponsored by The Center for Women and Families. Green Dot is a violence prevention program based on bystander intervention created by Dr. Dorothy Edwards at the University of Kentucky. Green Dot provides bystander training in the hopes of stopping and preventing violent, aggressive, or bullying behavior and changing from a culture that accepts this behavior to a culture that does not.

Students first attended an all-school assembly to learn an overview of the Green Dot program and basic ways to intervene. Next, about 40 students were nominated or volunteered to participate in an all-day bystander training. That training continues with monthly follow-up sessions during BLUE Day sessions, led by **Ms. Lori Droege**, community educator and trainer for The Center for Women and Families and coordinator for our Green Dot program.

Ms. Droege said she's heard from participants that the Green Dot terminology is already being woven into the Providence vocabulary, a sign that awareness is increasing. She hopes that the participants will take ownership of the program and spread the mindset to the rest of the school so that "as a whole (there will be) a shift in their attitude toward violence," she said. "I don't know Providence's statistics, but I do know that dating, sexual assault or bullying violence is prevalent within this age group."

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Ms. Droege said she enjoys working with the participants as they discover they can make a difference, even just one person. "Culture change is a series of single decisions," she said. "We can use our power of good to create a culture of safety."

Senior **Maryashly Betz** said she participated in the Green Dot training because she was intrigued by what she heard at the assembly in October. Now, she is glad to be learning tactics to prevent violence, such as creating a diversion.

Junior **Alec Proctor** said he got involved because he wanted to be an advocate for change. "I realize not everyone makes the best choices, but I want to be one of those who makes good choices - and to stop some bad things from happening."

Freshman Jacquie Hornung said she sees the training as a way to build other skills as well. "It helps to make me more self-conscious of my leadership skills - how I can be there for other people."

PHYSICS STUDENTS TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONAL Q&A

Five physics students had a unique opportunity last week to take part in a live taping of their discussion with a world famous theoretical physicist in London alongside students from Great Britain, Mexico and Jamaica - all without leaving campus.

The students took part in a live-streamed BBC World Service "Exchanges at the Frontier" science event in which they were part of a



question-and-answer session with physicist **Lisa Randall**. They dialed in via Skype, and each student was able to ask Ms. Randall a question on topics such as anti-matter, the discovery of the Higgs boson particle, and black holes.

Physics teacher **Mrs. Laura Swessel** was proud that Providence was one of five schools outside Great Britain to be invited to participate in the

international science event. PHS was invited after **Mrs. Nancy Miller's** Honors English 11 classes took part in separate BBC discussion events.

"It was a great experience for us to be able to participate in order to get science out there - and to interact with students in other countries," Mrs. Swessel said.

The students enjoyed the experience. Junior **Trey Embrey** said he was glad to have the chance to learn about the Higgs boson, a theoretical particle that is part of the Standard Model of quantum physics, and junior **Alex Grove** said he was looking forward to the event being broadcast on TV. The session was filmed and will air on BBC TV in February. Also participating were juniors **Justin Nacpil** and **Scott Hoyland**.

SENIOR NAMED HOLIDAY TOURNEY QUEEN CANDIDATE

Congratulations to senior **Maryashly Betz**, who will represent Providence during the Silver Creek Holiday Tournament as a queen candidate. Her escort will be senior **Pierce Crawley**.

The Tournament will be held at Silver Creek High School on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28-29. All queen candidates will be introduced at the end of the first game, which will be PHS vs. Charlestown at 6 p.m. The crowning will be on Saturday evening, after the first game.

For a complete schedule of holiday tournaments, click [here](#).

FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Seniors **Cory Cecil** and **Bobby Coan** have been nominated to the Indiana Football Coaches Association Academic All-State. Candidates must have played 70 percent of the season, earned at least a 3.40 GPA and a minimum 1660 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT. Congratulations!

HOUSES LEAD HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVES



Three Houses lead successful drives to collect items for those in need this season. The *House of Justice* spearheaded a toy drive to collect new toys for needy children to support the local Toys for Tots effort. Students,

teachers, staff and alumni donated a total of 1,200 toys.



The *House of Integrity* held a coat and blanket drive to help keep homeless individuals in the area warm this winter. Two large boxes and several bags of coats, blankets, hats, and other items were collected to give to In Heaven's Eyes Ministry at Holy Family Parish.



The *House of Loyalty* organized an effort to provide holiday cheer to Hospice residents with its Christmas Cards for Hospice Drive. Students, faculty and staff wrote more than 65 cards.

SADD READY FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The school's SADD chapter has been busy getting ready for the holidays by adopting a needy family and preparing for tonight's annual Christmas Dance. The SADD members have led a fundraising effort to provide clothing and other items for a needy family in crisis in the area. Faculty, staff and students contributed more than \$220 and other gifts. **Mrs. Melissa Jackson** and **Mrs. Jaimie McRae** will then shop for the remaining needed items. Ashley Furniture donated several pieces of furniture.

The Christmas Dance is tonight from 8-11 p.m. in the Activity Center. Students must have pre-purchased a ticket to this semi-formal dance. All students must show ID at the door, and only PHS students will be admitted.

SENIORS EARN FIRST HONORS

Congratulations to the following seniors who were recognized by *Business First* in the *First Honors* section: **Kathleen Wiles, Thomas Boly, Reed Fansler, and Luis Garcia**. These students were among several nominated by the Guidance Office for their scholastic and leadership achievements. More seniors will likely be recognized in subsequent issues.

SENIOR RECOGNIZED VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO ESSAY CONTEST



A representative from VFW Post 3281 - Floyd County Post presented senior **Clair Slusser** with a certificate and \$50 check for her participation in the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest. Clair recorded a reading of her essay on the theme "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" to a CD and submitted it to her local post, 3281. Her essay did not advance to the next level, but she was recognized for her quality participation. Congratulations Clair!

AUDITION DATES SET

Auditions for the Spring Musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, will be Jan. 3 and 7 at 3:30 in the auditorium.

All high school students are welcome to attend. Audition forms are available in the Theatre Lab.



JUNIOR HIGH CELEBRATES LITERACY



During finals week, the junior high participated in a Celebrate Literacy program in which eight faculty and staff members shared their love of reading and read aloud excerpts from their favorite book. **Mrs. Debbie Fackler**, administrative assistant to the president, is pictured reading to students. After the presentations, the students participated in a used book exchange.

SAVE THE DATE: EMPTY BOWLS

The PHS Art Club is planning its annual Empty Bowls event to bring awareness to and raise funds toward alleviating hunger in our community. The fundraiser and soup dinner will be held Sunday, Jan. 20, in the Activity Center. Click [here](#) for more information.



PARENT CONNECTION

PLACEMENT TEST MAKEUP

Eighth graders interested in enrolling for the 2013-2014 school year who did not take the Dec. 8 Placement Exam should plan to take the test on the make-up date on Saturday, Jan. 5. Students should arrive by 8:45 a.m. and bring two No. 2 pencils and a \$15 check made out to Providence High School. For more information call Director of Admissions **Mr. Dave Smith** at 812-945-3550 or email dsmith@providencehigh.net.

FAFSA WORKSHOP FOR SENIOR PARENTS

Senior parents will want to mark their calendars for an important information session to help them in their student's college application process. The Guidance Office is hosting a FAFSA Information Night on Jan. 9 from 7-9 p.m. in the Activity Center.

Mr. Gary Cottrill, an expert in the field, will provide parents with pointers and tips for completing the FAFSA online. Handouts will be provided, and updates to the form will be discussed.

On Feb. 6, 2013, from 3:15 -7 p.m. in the PHS library, Mr. Cottrill will be back again to provide one-on-one help to parents completing the FAFSA submission.

PLAN FOR 2013

We hope all our students, families, teachers, and staff members have a happy, blessed Christmas break. Classes resume with a regular-schedule "A" day on Jan. 3, 2013. Report cards will be mailed out sometime after Jan. 4, 2013.

PROVIDENCE EARNS "A" GRADE!

Providence is among the 40.9 percent of Indiana schools who received an A letter grade from the Indiana Department of Education for the 2011-2012 school year.

The IODE letter grades for high schools are calculated based on performance on the Algebra I and English 10 End of Course

Assessments, student improvement, graduation rate, and college and career readiness indicators such as Advanced Placement success or earning college credits.

For junior high, letter grades are based upon English/Language Arts and Math ISTEP+ performance, participation, improvement, and student growth.

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. Simply call the box office to make your reservation and be sure to say your tickets are for the Providence fundraiser.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

ALUMNI DIRECTORY NOTICES SENT

Alumni should have received either a postcard or email notifying them of the update to the alumni directory, "Our Lady of Providence Junior-Senior High School Alumni Today." A third party is collecting this information for Providence at no charge to the school. Please call the toll-free number listed on the card or email within two weeks of receipt.

We thank you for our cooperation in this endeavor, which not only creates an up-to-date directory of all alumni but also allows us to update our records.

There are several new features in the latest alumni directory, including an option to send in photos and/or submit an "essay" on what you're doing now. Simply call the toll-free number and provide your ID number for instructions. Information should not be submitted directly to Providence.

ALUMNI NIGHT JAN. 4

Join us for Alumni Night 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 in the Alumni Suite (off the home-side balcony) and recognition during halftime of the following teams: 1973, 1978, 1993, and 1998 Boys Golf; 1993 Wrestling; and 1998 Baseball.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 1974

The Class of 1974 (*members of the House of Loyalty*) is forming an exploratory committee to begin planning their 40-year class reunion activities and events. There will be a short initial meeting at Providence, January 4, 2013, at 5:15, before the Providence vs. Clarksville girls' and boys' basketball games. If interested, or for more information, contact Madra Stemle (madra.stemle@gmail.com) or Bob McNally (rmcnally74@hotmail.com) before January 4, 2013.

GALA INVITES IN THE MAIL

Watch your mailbox over the next few weeks. Invitations to the annual Providence Gala, scheduled for Jan. 19, 2013, at Huber Orchard, Winery & Vineyards Plantation Hall, will be mailed soon. You won't want to miss this fun event and important



fundraiser, which will include dinner, a live and silent auction, presentation of awards by the Alumni Association, and entertainment by Smokin' Joe and the Mudflaps (**Joe Dotson '90**). Sponsors and donations are still needed to make this important fundraiser a success. Funds raised support for 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.

BASEBALL SKILLS TRAINING CAMP OFFERED

Baseball **Coach Scott Hornung '81** and **Jacob Julius '04** will be offering a youth baseball camp that will focus on improving offensive and defensive skills Dec. 26-28 at Borden Sports in Sellersburg. The camp includes a two-hour session for various age groups.

The cost of the camp for one two-hour session is \$50, and the schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, Dec. 26 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m., ages 7-10
- Thursday, Dec. 27 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m., ages 11-14
- Friday, Dec. 28 - 9 a.m.-11 a.m., ages 7-10

RSVP to Scott Hornung at (502) 640-3502. Click here for the [registration form](#). Payment and registration is due the day of the camp. Borden Sports is located at 4601 Commerce Pass, Sellersburg.

BLUE PRIDE ON DISPLAY

NHS MEMBERS ARE LEADERS

IN SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE

Because of its name, many people may think the *National Honor Society* is focused only on academics. Yet the organization actually is focused on leadership and service.

For several years, members offered tutoring in any subject to other students before school twice a week. Last year, the members also began participating in the Peer Coach Program. That program pairs an NHS member with another student to provide tutoring as well as mentoring. Whereas tutoring is on a drop-in, as-needed basis, those in the Peer Coach Program meet regularly.

Senior **Thomas Boly** said he likes how the program offers a chance to build a friendly relationship with the person he is helping. "It's more than just helping someone for a short time," he said. "It's more personal."

Senior **Katelyn Neal** said she has found that she has gained as much as she has given in the program. She has two peer mentees and enjoys the opportunity to help them. "They teach me about myself and how I can be a better leader and a better helper," she said.

Mrs. Nancy Miller, co-faculty sponsor, said that the NHS members are impacted when helping others. Mrs. Miller said she would like to see the members do even more and hopes one day to develop a "big brother/big sister" program with freshmen.

"Too often you hear, 'I'm just one person. I can't do anything.' Well, you can, and they see that (with tutoring and mentoring)," she said.

The NHS members also saw recently how working together can do good for others. The members each took home a piggy bank as part of Piggies for Preemies, a fundraiser for premature babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Kosair Children's Hospital. Thomas Boly was the top collector for the project. By saving their spare change, the 33 members were able to raise more than \$520.

National Honor Society members are selected in the second semester of their junior or senior year. Students must have at least a B+ average and be in at least two honors classes to receive an invitation to apply. Students are selected from those applications based on their leadership and service activities and character references.

BLUE NEWS - OF OLD

By **Ray Day '57**

CORRECTION

In the December 5 issue of e-VISION, the Class of 1971 was accidentally left out of the "top five" classes regarding the number of students graduating. The list should have read as follows:

1. 1965 - 221
2. 1966 - 213
3. 1964 - 197
4. 1971 - 191
5. (Tie) 1961 and 1968 - 188

We appologize for the omission but delighted to know your are reading the BLUE NEWS - OF OLD feature.

Music Department Christmas Shows have a long tradition at Providence. The first evidence we can find was a Glee Club program on Dec. 21, 1954, under the direction of **Sister Mary Alma**.

The 2012 program entitled "Christmas Voices" was staged by the Performing Arts Department on Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Robinson Auditorium. Providence Singers, Providence Campus Chorus, and the Popcorn Players were joined by the New Albany Deanery Honor Choir.

Our thoughts flashed back to 1975 when the Christmas Show featured a unique performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." **Mrs. Theresa Horton** (now principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help grade school) was head of the Music Department at the time. Her husband, a trombone player for the Louisville Orchestra, adapted the song for piano/brass.

The Theatre Department prepared costumes and props for what turned out to be a HUGE production number.

The song lasted more than 15 minutes because as each new verse was sung, the entire cast paraded across the stage to the delight of the audience. It took some 75-plus students to carry all the milk buckets, drums, turtle dove cages, swimming swans, and, of course, a partridge in a pear tree. Try, if you will, to visualize 10 lords leaping, followed immediately on stage by 11 pipers piping and finally 12 drummers drumming.

According to the 1976 yearbook, "the skit was a delightful change from the traditional cantatas and received warm approval from the audience and much applause."

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 18 - First Semester Exams - NOON DISMISSAL

Dec. 18 - End of First Semester

Dec. 18 - Christmas Dance - 8-11 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Christmas Break Begins

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...



The following is quoted from the Dec. 20, 1954, issue of the "Pioneer Post."

"Joy to the World! This is the true spirit of Christmas and should be carried in our hearts the entire year. The earthly joy of gifts and big Christmas dinner only last for a time, but the joy that Christ's birth brought to the world lasts forever. That was God's plan in giving us the gift of His Son. At Christmas, we are reminded of it and celebrate this great feast with the church.

"We Americans who tend to do things in a big way sometimes lose the spiritual meaning of Christmas. We tend to commercialize it and give the exchanging of gifts too much importance. Buying, decorating, and partying at Christmas add much to the enjoyment of celebrating holidays. As long as we don't overdo these material practices and lose the spiritual meaning of Christmas, they can and should be enjoyed. Perhaps we can even look as far back as to the three wise men who brought gifts to Christ for approval.

*"But true joy comes in giving rather than in receiving. Christ gave us the gift ever to be received-Himself, God! We, too, must give as well as receive. We **must** give the joy that is ours to EVERYBODY, EVERYWHERE, AT ALL TIMES. And that implies a forgetfulness of ourselves and a thoughtfulness of others. We will be thinking of others during this season-keep it up throughout the new year that is almost with us. May the joy we feel be an overflowing of our gratitude to God for His gifts to us. Just as the Joy of Christ's birth lasts forever, so should our*

gratitude be enduring."

So wrote the student editor of the Pioneer Post 58 years ago this week-thoughts as meaningful today as they were in 1954. Providence simply adds the following:

May your family enjoy a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year.

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