

# PROVIDENCE



Dress rehearsal for *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

## PROVIDENCE e-VISION NEWS

September 26, 2012

News for Parents, Alumni and Friends of Providence

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## ASAP DINNER BENEFITS STUDENTS

A family just trying to make ends meet. A family with five children in Catholic schools. A parent with a reduction in salary. A single mother working two jobs. What do all these people have in common? These are just some of the situations in which Providence families find themselves. Thanks to the Annual Student Assistance Program (ASAP) and the generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends, Providence is able to provide the financial aid necessary so these students can attend the high school of their choice - approximately one-quarter of our students.

The ASAP Dinner, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 8, is an important fundraising event that raises a large portion of this financial support. The dinner also is a night of fellowship, and this year will be especially entertaining with a one-time performance by two members of the Class of 1966: **Sonny Lemaire**, a professional songwriter with hits such as "Beautiful Mess" and a member of the band Exile, and **Gary Marlin**, member of the brother band and long-time local favorite The Marlins. The ASAP Dinner will be held at Huber Orchard & Winery's Plantation Hall with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00. The dinner is free, but reservations are required. Please email [advancement@providencehigh.net](mailto:advancement@providencehigh.net) or call (812) 945-3350 to place your

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reservation or if you have any questions.

## STUDENTS IN ACTION

### SENIORS RECEIVE NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

Seniors **Eric Matthews** and **Stephen Harper** have achieved the distinction of being recognized by the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. Eric has been named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, and Stephen has been named a National Merit Scholarship commended student, both for their achievement on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test taken in the fall of their junior year.



Eric is one of four students in Clark and Floyd counties to achieve the honor of National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, and the only Providence student to do so. Students earn the rank of semifinalist by achieving the highest scores in their state on the PSAT. These students represent the top 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors who took the test in October 2011.

Eric said being named a semifinalist has been "just surreal." He suspected he may have achieved the ranking based on his PSAT results last fall, which included critical reading and writing scores in the 99th percentile. He prepared for the PSAT as a junior by studying with an SAT study guide, which he also used before taking the SAT.

The work isn't over yet, however. Next, Eric -- and all semifinalists -- must submit a detailed scholarship application and essay as well as provide information on participation in school and community activities, demonstration of leadership abilities, and any honors or awards received. Eric is a member of Quick Recall and the Spanish Club and is a Boy Scout working toward the rank of Eagle.

About 90 percent of National Merit Semifinalists achieve the finalist honor. Of the 15,000 finalists, 2,500 will receive \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships awarded on a state representational basis. Finalists also are eligible for one of about 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships. About 200 colleges and universities provide scholarships to National Merit finalists. Finalists will be announced in the spring.

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Eric is a member of St. Anthony parish and is the son of Kevin and Maria Matthews. He plans to major in Spanish in college and wants to work with native-Spanish speakers either in the naturalization process or teaching English as a second language. He has yet to choose his college but is leaning toward the University of Louisville because it offers a full scholarship, including a semester abroad, for National Merit finalists.

Stephen is one of about 34,000 students who have been named commended students for his achievement on the PSAT last fall. Commended students placed among the top 5 percent of students who took the test in October 2011. Stephen said his critical reading scores ranked in the 99th percentile and his writing in the 98th. These commended students are recognized by their schools but are not eligible for the finalist competition.

Stephen is a member of St. Mary's in New Albany and is the son of Jack and Julie (Dattilo '80) Harper. He is a member of the Quick Recall and Cross Country teams and is undecided about his college major but plans to attend either U of L or Indiana University Southeast.



Congratulations, Eric and Stephen!

## BLUE DAYS: ULTIMATE FRISBEE

The Balanced Learning=Undeniable Excellence sessions on Monday and Tuesday offer multiple opportunities for students, from remedial or study sessions to enrichment. The P.E. Department's session for the next few weeks has drawn a crowd with the offering of Ultimate Frisbee. The session is held in the Larkin Center gym on rainy days and outside in good weather.

PE teacher **Mr. Scott Hornung** said he was glad to see so many students participate, especially since it was a good mix of students from all grades, including junior high. "Certainly, we want to emphasize fitness," he said. "But there's also a social element of getting students from different classes to interact."

Senior **Weston Spalding** was glad to be able to participate last week when rain canceled a tennis match. A Frisbee fan, he said he was thrilled with the chance to play but also to practice before the Ultimate Frisbee event during Pioneer House Cup on Friday. "I love Frisbee, but I don't always get the chance to throw with someone," he said.



BLUE Days options change weekly, with sessions in English, social studies, theology, and health/PE offered on Mondays and math, science, business, and fine arts on Tuesdays. Learning Support sessions and tutoring by National Honors Society members are offered both days. The schedule is updated on Friday afternoons and posted to the BLUE Days link on the right-hand navigation bar on the school website.

## FALL SHOW DEBUTS ON SATURDAY

This weekend and next, the Providence Players will present the one-act play *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* by Celeste Raspanti in the Ray Day Little Theatre. Show times are Sept. 29, Oct. 5, Oct. 6, and Oct. 7 at 7:00 p.m. and one matinee on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 2:00 p.m.

*I Never Saw Another Butterfly* is an imaginative creation of one girl's story of surviving the Jewish ghetto during World War II based on documentary materials such as poems, diaries, letters, journals, drawings and pictures.

The cast includes seniors **Madeline Long, Emalee Aldridge, Lloyd Lashley, Mandy Ross, Jade Gooch,** and **Taylor Marshall,** and juniors **John Oppelt, Tanner Moberly, Jenna Merchant, Kendra Kramer, Peyton Schmidt, Taylor Hoffman, Carolyn Swartz, Michelle Zelli Kelsey Rodgers, Josh Hughes,** and **Sabrina Anderson,** and sophomore **Will Smith.**

Those who attend opening night will hear a special introduction from **Mr. Fred Gross,** author of *One Step Ahead of Hitler: A Jewish Child's Journey Through France,* a narrative of his family's flight from the German invasion of Belgium and the Nazi policies that would become the Holocaust. Mr. Gross' presentation was made possible thanks to parents **Mr. and Mrs. Peter Voigt,** who organized and sponsored the

special presentation by Mr. Gross for the cast, crew and their families.

Tickets to the fall show are \$10 and can be [purchased online](#), by phone at (812) 945-2538 x 328 or at the door. Limited seating is available. For more information, call 812-945-2538 x 328.

## MR. PHS PAGEANT DEBUTS



Last Sunday, the House of Spirit and the House of Faith introduced the Mr. PHS Pageant. The contest featured two seniors from each house, and four teachers judged the contestants on the categories of church wear, talent and Blue Pride wear. Senior **Jacob Resch** was named Mr. PHS and will crown the Homecoming King tomorrow at the assembly. Jacob, who represented the House of Integrity, received a \$50 Visa gift card and the coveted prize of first in the lunch line for a week. Runners up were seniors **Andrew Hunt** of the House of Justice and **Josh Courtney** of the House of Truth, who each received a \$25 Visa gift card. The seniors representing the Houses of Justice and Spirit each received a gallon of milk for having the most House members in attendance.

Senior **Mandy Ross**, communications liaison with the House of Spirit, was excited to introduce the event and hopes it becomes an annual tradition. She had heard of the event at other high schools and suggested it to her house members at the Summer Leadership Retreat. "I just thought it sounded fun," she said.

## GIRLS GOLF WRAP UP

By Coach **Michelle Landis '06**

The 2012 PHS Girls Golf Team had an outstanding season. After improving 59 strokes since their first golf match on July 31, the team

finished fifth out of 12 teams at sectionals. While they did not advance to the regional, each individual player made great strides in improvement since the beginning of the season. The team finished with 14 wins.

Senior **Morgan Boone**, the one senior on the team, was a great team leader and example to the new players. She played the No. 1 position on the varsity team, followed by four freshmen: **Colleen Geldermann**, **Brooklin Grantz**, **Mary Ann Fitzpatrick**, and **Nicole Kruer**. The whole team worked very hard and was dedicated to making the 2012 golf season a success. The girls are looking forward to the 2013 season.

## SEVENTH GRADERS ENJOY CLASS RETREAT



The seventh graders recently attended a class retreat at St. Michael's Church. The theme was building relationships between friends, family and faith and included talks from Providence upperclassmen about the importance of faith, importance of family relationships, importance of healthy relationships with friends, and the benefits of attending Providence.

The students said they had fun spending time getting to know their classmates on a different level and shared how lucky they feel to go to Providence and be able to discuss their faith on a daily basis.

## HOMECOMING AND HOUSE CUP THIS WEEK

This week is Fall Homecoming, and the festivities intersect with the annual Pioneer House Cup. This morning, the students celebrated Mass together. Tomorrow, a special assembly will honor all seniors participating in fall sports as well as the homecoming court. The Homecoming King will be named at this time as well. The Homecoming Queen will be named at halftime of the Providence vs. Evansville Bosse football game on Friday. Game time is at 8:00 p.m.

Members of the Homecoming Court include freshmen **Alyson Bass**,

**Chase Balmer, Nathan Hesse, and Jacqueline Hornung;** sophomores **Roman Arvizu, Sommer Dean, Ryan Didat, and Jaclyn Endris;** juniors **Katie Federspiel, Mason Hublar, Jonah Nicholson, and Kasey Wallace;** and seniors **Kelsey Haas, Jacqueline Hollkamp, Leah Mattingly, and Allison Primavera and Cory Cecil, Reed Fansler, Murphy Sheets and Brandon Sprigler.**

Thursday evening, Pioneer House Cup activities kick off with the annual bonfire from 7-10, hosted by the House of Integrity. Students earn points for their House just for attending, and extra points can be earned by wearing their House t-shirt, showing their school or House lanyard, wearing their House pin, and having PHS face paint. Activities include a hot-wing-eating contest, a human spheres obstacle course, and giant Big Wheel races. Admission is free and includes one hot dog, a bag of chips, and a soft drink. Additional food will be available for purchase.

On Friday morning, students will participate in the Pioneer House Cup, which features friendly competition among the nine houses in activities such as corn hole, euchre, Ultimate Frisbee, Providence Got Talent, and much more. The winning house earns the House Cup, which is on display in the main lobby.

Because there is no longer a fundraising component associated with House Cup, each House is required to raise \$250 to help pay for the activities of the day. Many Houses are asking students to pay \$3-\$5 per person, while other Houses are asking for a higher amount because they are including the cost of a House t-shirt or funding for activities later in the year. Each House must raise the required amount in order to participate in House Cup.

## **PARENT CONNECTION**

### **COLLEGE FAIR TONIGHT**

Planning for college isn't limited to senior year. Students of all grades and their parents are invited to attend the Southern Indiana College Fair tonight at the New Albany High School gym. The college fair will feature representatives from a variety of colleges and universities as well as branches of the military. Information will also be available on Community Foundation of Southern Indiana scholarships, financial aid, the NCAA Clearinghouse, Twenty-First Century Scholars, and more. The college fair is tonight from 6:30 to 8:00.

### **COLLEGE GO WEEK SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Students of all ages have the opportunity to win \$100 for college as part

of College Go Week. The essay contest rules and deadline are posted online at the [Learn More Indiana Website](#). Seniors can take advantage of College Go Week, during which a number of colleges forego their application fee. [Click here](#) to see which Indiana colleges are offering a fee waiver, through Friday, Sept. 28.

## WEEKLY TUTORING BY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

The members of the National Honor Society offer free tutoring on any subject to all students. This year, general tutoring sessions are offered during BLUE Days, from 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Alumni Suite. Individual NHS members also will assist teachers in world languages, science, math, English, and social studies in offering tutoring during remediation and study sessions in their specific classrooms. The NHS members may add a morning tutoring session later this semester.

## ALUMNI IN ACTION

### REUNION UPDATE

Upcoming reunions include:

- \* 1962: mini-reunion Dec. 1 at Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville.
- \* 1977: 35-year reunion Nov. 10, venue TBD
- \* 1992: 20-year reunion Nov. 3, 7-11 p.m., Covered Bridge
- \* 2002: 10-year reunion Oct. 20, 8-midnight, Champions Pointe Golf Club

### SARTINI FIELD NAMING OCT. 12

On Friday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m., Providence will name the football field after longtime coach **Gene Sartini**. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m., with the kickoff to the City Championship game vs. Clarksville immediately following. Following the City Championship award ceremony after the game, all Providence alumni, especially former players, are invited to join Coach Sartini for a reception in the scoreboard area.

Oct. 12 also is Senior Night, and those festivities will be held around 7:10 p.m.

### MAKING PROVIDENCE HISTORY VISIBLE

In the August 29 issue of e-VISION we announced the Making Providence History Visible project. The request for donations to help frame 16 historic silk-screened posters from plays and musicals of the 60s and 70s at Providence. In some cases, the posters were designed and executed by students in the art classes.

The response has been wonderful and over \$700 has been raised toward the goal of \$1,000.

Contributions are still being accepted to complete the project. Donor names will be attached to specific posters if so desired. A \$70 donation will cover the cost of the following

un-sponsored posters: *The Miracle Worker* (1972), *Carnival* (1973), and *Fiddler On The Roof* (1972).



Of course, donations of any amount are appreciated and will be applied to the Making Providence History Visible project. If you have questions, contact Ray Day at [rday@providencehigh.net](mailto:rday@providencehigh.net). Send contributions to:

Our Lady of Providence Jr-Sr High School  
Attn: Advancement-Poster  
707 Providence Way  
Clarksville, IN 47129

## CALLING ALL PAST CHEERLEADERS

As part of the festivities for the naming of **Gene Sartini** Field, Providence invites all former cheerleaders to help lead the crowd in cheers from your era. If you would like to participate, email [alumni@providencehigh.net](mailto:alumni@providencehigh.net).

## BLUE PRIDE ON DISPLAY

## WELCOME, MRS. SWESSEL



By Senior **Brianna Jacobi**

Providence has been blessed to have so many new teachers join the family. One of the newest teachers is **Mrs. Laura Swessel**, who teaches Honors Physics part-time. Her extensive knowledge on the subject is evident through her teaching in the classroom.

Mrs. Swessel earned her undergraduate degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Later, she would follow up with graduate school at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

She admits that while in high school she didn't know much about physics, but when she took physics for engineering in college she became fascinated with it. She was also part of the varsity softball team in high school.

All her hard work in college paid off. Mrs. Swessel has a patent on a fuel gauge for a satellite, and she has a Lean Sigma Black Belt (not karate, but still cool), which means that she uses statistics to solve engineering problems.

Mrs. Swessel said that she has always wanted to teach high school and has taught at the college level for 10 years. She also is an adjunct physics professor at Indiana University Southeast in addition to teaching at Providence. She said her favorite thing at Providence is the closeness between the students and faculty. The camaraderie that Providence possesses was lacking in her own public high school, so the fact that the Providence community is more like a family than anything has made a big impression on her.

Originally from Maryland, Mrs. Swessel moved several years ago to Southern Indiana, where she now lives with her husband and two kids. She donates her time as a volunteer for the Falls of the Ohio, at her church for the children's ministry, and she enjoys watching sports.

## **WELCOME BACK, MR. GESWEIN**

To the students in junior high science and Earth/Science, **Mr. Fred Geswein '65** is a new substitute teacher, but to alumni from 1970 to 2004, he was a fixture as a biology teacher here for 35 years.



Mr. Geswein said he enjoys the chance to teach junior high students for the first time because "they are so enthusiastic and have so many questions. That's what makes them fun." He also enjoys once again teaching sophomores. "I enjoy science. And I like to interact with the kids."

Mr. Geswein left Providence in 2004 to move to Ohio. He later moved back to the area and taught alternative education classes for New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corp. for five years. When the Education Support Center closed in 2010 and classes were moved back to the high schools, he decided to retire. "I don't know if it (returning to Providence as a substitute science teacher) cut into 'the dream' or if it's part of the dream," he said.

An avid runner and long-time cross country coach at Providence, Mr. Geswein remains involved with the local racing community and heads the annual Fast Freddie's Festive Five-Mile Foot Feast, held on Thanksgiving morning at the Floyd County 4-H Fairgrounds.

### **COACH DENISON ON LIVE RADIO**

Football Coach **Larry Denison** will be a featured guest on a live broadcast on 1450 AM radio from 7:00--8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. He will be featured along with New Albany High School Coach **Charlie Fields** and will be discussing the Providence football team and Southern Indiana high school football in general. Show your Blue Pride and come to Tumbleweed at Highlander Pointe and be part of the audience!

### **BLUE NEWS - OF OLD**

## Remembering 1972-1973

The 1972-1973 school year was memorable in many ways. First and foremost, it was the year the Sisters of Providence sold the school to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

**Mr. Bob Larkin** was in his second year as principal and would remain in that office for the next 15 years. The theatre department staged *The Miracle Worker* and *Carnival* in the Little Theatre, and *The Man of La Mancha* was the spring musical. A highlight of the year came when Mr. Larkin sang *The Impossible Dream* at the school's talent show, a direct reference to the deep desire by many to save the school from closure. **Karen Knight** was crowned Holiday Tourney Queen. **Beth Ann Hutchins** was crowned Basketball Homecoming Queen. At the Prom, **Carolyn Sabolchak** and **Paul Corbett** were crowned queen and king.



Second year Head Football Coach **Gene Sartini** lead his team to sectional, regional and semi-state victories. They were defeated in the State Finals and enjoyed a 11-1-0 season, and coach Sartini remained at the helm for another 38 years.

**Mr. Bob Fields** began a 21-year run as athletic director and retired in 1994. The Girl's Cross Country team launched its first year with **Sister Ann Carita** (later **Sr. Nancy**) as their coach. In Student Council, **Tish Filburn** and **Bob Day** were co-chairs. editor **Cindy Julius** lead the yearbook staff and the 1973 Senior Class Officers included president **Tom Waters**, vice-president **Eric Ernstberger**, secretary **Janet Fleece**, treasurer **Kathy Kennedy** and social chairman **Cindy Gedling**. The graduating seniors for 1973 totaled 136.



## COMING EVENTS

*Sept. 26 - Homecoming Liturgy (Liturgy Schedule)*

*Sept. 27 - Fall Homecoming Ceremony (Special Schedule)*

Sept. 27 - Pioneer House Cup Opening Ceremony (7:00 p.m. - Front of School)  
Sept. 28 - Pioneer House Cup Tournament - Noon Dismissal  
Sept. 29-30 - Fall Show - "I Never Saw Another Butterfly"  
Oct. 5-7 - Fall Show - "I Never Saw Another Butterfly"  
Oct. 8 - ASAP Dinner, Huber Orchard & Winery  
Oct. 11 - Sophomore Ring/Pinning Ceremony - 9:30 a.m. - Robinson Auditorium  
Oct. 12 - Gene Sartini Field Naming  
Oct. 14 - [Southern Indiana Basketball Coaches Clinic](#)  
Oct. 15-19 - Fall Break  
Oct. 18-19 - Faculty In-Service

\* \* PROVIDENCE WAY \* PROVIDENCE WAY \* \*

### *And lastly...*

*Forty years ago, on October 5, 1973, the Sisters of Providence announced their plan to close Providence High School and sell the building. Due to financial necessity, the Sisters needed to liquidate their assets to better serve the aging members of their community of sisters.*

*In coming issues, we will highlight some of the events that unfolded over the six weeks following the dramatic announcement. Four decades and several thousand graduates later, we raise a prayer of thanksgiving that Providence, even to this day, thrives in southern Indiana.*

*With God's blessings and Our Lady's continued intercession, Providence continues to inspire Faith, empower Hope, and strengthen Love, through exemplary Catholic education.*

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