

Happy Birthday RUSTY!



The group above is the first group of graduating seniors that have attended PA since kindergarten. L to R: William Hodgson, Zach Auter, Will McQuain, Lucas Farrow, Don Hardcastle, Elijah Herington, Brad Boswell; seated: Katie Miller, Rachel Lindley, Lauren Huddleston, Ian Sams



FOCUS:
A Christian Worldview
 By Jerry Williams, Administrator

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for me at Providence Academy. I especially enjoy it when all of the faculty & staff come together the week before the students arrive for what we call “faculty inservice.” It is our preparation time...our “get motivated” time...our “Oh my gracious, they’ll be here in only a few short days” time. And it’s also a time for us to reflect on God’s Word and remind ourselves of

This year at faculty inservice we took time each day to discuss the implications of having a Christian worldview.

our calling as Christian educators. This year at faculty inservice we took time each day to
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Providence Mascot Rusty the Knight (and Providence Academy) turn 13!

Yes, Providence is thirteen years old. As a thirteen year old school we will see our first group of graduates that have been with Providence since Kindergarten. When this group graduates later this year, they will help us pass another milestone. As we look back at milestones, the first day of school, the first day in our new building, and our first graduation were all key dates. This milestone has been looked upon with great anticipation. This is the first group that is completely a product of the Christ-centered and classical approach that we call Providence Academy.

As we pondered this group many wondered, would they be academically successful, would they be salt and light? The first half of the question we already know. This class bested our already high ACT average of 25.7 (first three years of seniors) with an average score of 27.35. The second half of the question “will they be salt in light” remains to be seen. However, the service work, the mission trips etc. that are evidenced by these students is hopefully the tip of the iceberg. Our Christian education impacted these individual students for Christ. How many people will this group impact for Christ? How will their Christian worldview impact the world? Only time will tell.

But we have high hopes!

What is the most important thing you learned at PA?

As the group above celebrated their 13 years together, we asked them to answer the question above. Here are a few answers.

- ... to think and live in a manner which brings glory to God ...
- I have learned to look at an argument, find its strengths and weaknesses, and, if necessary, refute it. In learning this, I have also learned how to present a convincing argument of my own.
- The most important thing I learned at PA was how to think, not just memoriz facts.
- I learned the importance of knowledge in preparation for college. Also, I learned to work hard to achieve results.

FEATURES

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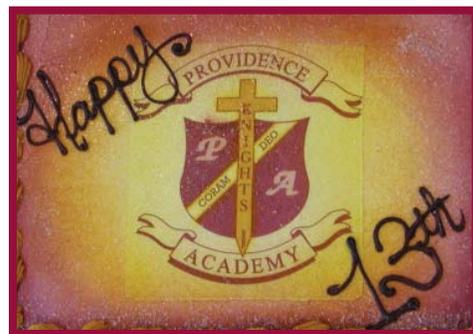
Ian Sams receives Niswonger Scholarship
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WE ARE ... ON THE WAY!

By Mark Koscak, Director of Development



As I reflected on Providence's thirteenth birthday I realized that Providence is a teenager. Wow! A teenager. What potential, what a bright future, but yes, we know teenagers need prayer, and Providence needs your prayers. We need to lift up students; we need to lift up and encourage teachers; we need to lift up our financial needs; we need to pray through the growing



pains, and we need to pray through the sin that arises amongst a group of sinners even if they wear the cross.

I recently had a talk with one of our dads, Pastor Bill Houck. I told him that I felt convicted that we needed to spend more time lifting PA in prayer. He suggested that I re-read Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala, and he shared this quote by John Wesley "God does nothing but an answer to prayer."

I re-read Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire and it strengthened my resolve that we need to pray more for the school. I also recently saw the movie "Facing The Giants," and saw the prayer warrior praying over each locker at the school. It led me to dream about an army of Dads and Granddads meeting at the school to pray for our children. It would be a powerful witness to our children as well as an obedient approach for handling our needs.

There is no reason that this dream can't become reality. We set a date. We set a time.

Friday morning January 26th from 8:00-9:00 AM we will be meeting in the gym for prayer. The only thing we need now is Dads and Granddads that want to be prayer warriors.

*We Need Prayer Warriors
Calling all Dads and Granddads*

*Friday January 26th
8-9 AM
Providence Academy Gym*

Will you join us?

THE MATTHEW 18 PRINCIPLE

Why, When and How to use in a School Setting

By Jerry Williams, Administrator

What exactly does Providence Academy mean when it says that our school adheres to following the "Matthew 18 principle" for handling disagreements and conflicts? We discuss Matthew 18 in the fall at Parent Orientation, in the spring at the Associational Meeting, and many times between. That Matthew 18 is mentioned so often at PA means it probably deserves attention. And what better place to start than . . . Matthew 18. The key of this passage is in verse 15: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you."

The purpose of this three part article is to help us determine exactly how these words apply in a school setting, specifically at Providence Academy. Sometimes the fact that we often refer to the Matthew 18 principle makes it sound as though we (the Board and administration) don't want to receive your feedback. Or, it may be that your concern is a general concern that doesn't necessarily involve a specific

individual but, rather, is a concern regarding the overall curriculum, or the athletic philosophy, or the overall mission of the school, etc. My goal is that this article will hopefully bring some clarification to these type scenarios. Therefore, we will be looking at three areas: why, when, and how we should apply Matthew 18 in a school setting. Let us begin with why.

See if any of the following scenarios seem familiar.

Scenario 1

Your child says that the teacher gave her a low mark on her history project and embarrassed her with a comment in front of her classmates.

Scenario 2

Your elementary child comes home crying and says that Johnny is making fun of him and teasing him at recess and lunch each day.

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Moving The Next Mountain

Trusting in God's Providence

DUE DATE	BOND REPAYMENT	STATUS
APRIL 1, 2005	\$1,000,000	PAID IN FULL
APRIL 1, 2008	\$2,000,000	NEED YOUR HELP!
APRIL 1, 2012	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

MOVING THE NEXT MOUNTAIN

“Moving the Next Mountain” is the next phase of our *“Trusting in God's Providence”* Capital Campaign. In 2002, Providence Academy issued a private bond offering of \$4.5 million dollars to finish financing our new campus. In April of 2005 we paid off our first \$1 million of this debt. We still owe \$3.5 million. We owe \$2 million on April 1, 2008. As of November 2006, we have \$860,000 in cash, pledges and interest towards the \$2 million debt repayment. Please keep this challenge in your prayers, we have come a long way, but we still have a God-sized challenge ahead of us.

If you have a question regarding the capital campaign, please call our Development Director Mark Koscak at (423) 854-9819. To help us **“Move the Next Mountain”** you can send your gift to Providence Academy 2788 Carroll Creek Rd, Johnson City, TN 37615. Please note debt repayment in memo field on your check.

MOVING THE NEXT MOUNTAIN Gift Table

- A. B Series Repayment \$ 2,000,000
- Cash and Pledges as of 4/1/06 \$ 700,000
- Amount to be Raised \$ 1,300,000

B.

Gift Amount	# of Gifts	Total
\$400,000	1	\$400,000
\$200,000	1	\$200,000
\$100,000	2	\$200,000
\$ 50,000	4	\$200,000
\$ 25,000	6	\$150,000
\$ 10,000	8	\$ 80,000
\$ 5,000	10	\$ 50,000
Under \$5,000	Numerous	\$ 20,000
TOTAL		\$1,300,000

LEADERSHIPS GIFTS

The Key to Meeting the Goal

Providence Administrator Jerry Williams recently requested prayer support in identifying leadership gifts for our effort to pay off the B Series Bond due on 4/1/2008 (“Moving The Next Mountain”).

“Our experience shows that the key to meeting our fundraising goal is to raise the leadership gifts.” (See leadership gifts in Gift Table highlighted in red). “We want everyone to participate, yet the reality is that we need leadership gifts to meet our goal,” said Mr. Williams.

As you pray about the bond repayment we ask that you specifically pray for leadership gifts. If you have any suggestions of families, foundations or businesses that would be able to help with a leadership gift, please contact our Development Director, Mark Koscak at (423) 854-9819.

discuss the implications of having a Christian worldview.

A worldview is a set of presuppositions and beliefs that we each use to interpret and form opinions about humanity, our purpose in life, our duties in

“We demolish arguments ... and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

the world, our responsibilities to our family, etc. Although we are well aware that the Bible has much to say about each of these topics, we are also well aware that the world does too. In fact, oftentimes the world proclaims its worldview much louder and much more consistently (in a consistently inconsistent sort of way – if you can figure that one out) than we Christians do. Where the world asserts that man evolved, the Bible says that he was created and is ulti-

mately responsible to God. Where the world says that morals are relative, the Bible says they are absolute. Where the world says that there is no need of salvation and redemption, the Bible clearly states that all people are in need of deliverance from their sin. The contrast between the secular worldview and the Christian worldview is obvious and profound.

Everyone has a worldview. It is likened to a set of lenses that taint our vision and alter the way we perceive the world around us. For many people their worldview is simply something they have absorbed by osmosis from their surrounding cultural influences. They have never thought strategically about what they believe and wouldn't be able to give a rational defense of their beliefs to others.

Consider the topics of art, entertainment, music, bio-ethics, economics, counseling, education,

environmentalism, government, history, etc. Our worldview will determine what we believe about each of these topics. **And our job as Christian educators is to teach our students to think about all things in life, including these, through the very absolute and true lenses of the Word of God, so that they might think the thoughts and perform the actions that Christ Himself would.**

II Corinthians 10:3-5 reminds us, *“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On*

the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” Notice that last part. That is exactly what we are attempting to teach our students...your children...to do.

The verse that we have adopted as our theme verse for this school year is a very simple one. In fact, it only contains seven words. But in

**Theme Verse for
2006-07
“And find out what
pleases the Lord”
Ephesians 5:10**

these seven simple words should be the very foundation for the Christian worldview that we possess and live out on a day to day basis and the foundation for what we should be teaching our children. These seven simple words are found in Ephesians 5:10 where we read, *“And find out what pleases the Lord.”*

So, as we embark upon another school year we want to communicate to you that we will do everything in our power to partner with you to develop the Christian worldview of your children. And the measuring rod that we will teach them to use, and that we will use ourselves, is to determine what it is that pleases our Lord, and then to...well...to do it.

Hoping that you also will please the Lord in all that you think I do this 2006-07 school year!



**Congratulations Coach Sells!
“Coach” Wins 300th Soccer Game**



School Administrator Jerry Williams (R) and Secondary Vice Principal Willie Church (L) recognize Coach Martin Sells for 300th soccer victory

Coach's Record

Sport	Wins	% Wins	Years
Soccer	302	74.4%	25
Basketball	356	62.3%	23
Baseball	208	63.4%	22

SCHOLARSHIP AT PROVIDENCE

KEY FACTS:

- Scholarship support is based on need.
- During 2006-07 15% of students will receive aid.
- Eligible families receive up to 50% of their tuition via the Providence Academy Annual Scholarship Fund.
- Scholarship funds are raised via gifts to the school, and are not a component of tuition to keep tuition as affordable as possible.
- Multi-year pledges to the scholarship fund help to undergird this vital program.
- By establishing a multi-year commitment to this ministry, families needing this type of support will be able to confidently choose Providence Academy as an option for their children's education.
- For further information on how you can help provide need based scholarship support. Contact Development Director Mark Koscak at (423) 854-9819.

**PROVIDENCE ACADEMY
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
2006-2007**

**"The Lord
is with you
mighty
warrior."
Judges 6:12**



"Knight Watch" by William Bledsoe

**TOTAL NEEDED
BY 6/30/2007**



■ Pledges ■ Cash

THANKS to our Multi-Year Partners

Johnson City Internal Medicine Associates, PC
219 Princeton Road, Suite 200
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-282-4911



2105 East Center St., Suite B
Kingsport, TN 37664
423.378.5044



Host Engineering, Inc
593 AA Deakins Road
Jonesborough, TN 37659



NN Inc. - Corporate Office
2000 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 12
Johnson City, TN 37604
PH:423-743-9151



EASTman

(Eastman Annual Scholarship Team)
"Eastman Employees Committed to
providing need-based scholarship"



Alumni Parents

Committed to providing need-
based scholarship

Scenario 3

Your child receives some form of discipline (yellow light, name on board, 15 minutes of detention, etc.) because the teacher says that he was talking out in class after being warned. But your child says that everyone else was talking too but no one else was punished. “It just isn’t fair!” he exclaims. For the sake of this article we will identify these scenarios as three opportunities to apply Matthew 18, because something needs to be done to resolve the real or perceived conflict. Although Matthew 18 says to confront your brother when he actually sins against you, the same principle holds true when there is simply frustration and disagreement between two parties—they still need to come together to work it out.

So why should we apply Matthew 18 in the scenarios mentioned? If Suzie comes home with a low grade on her history project and says that she has been embarrassed by her teacher in front of her peers, there’s a good chance that either Mom or Dad, or both, are upset with what their child said happened and will want to do something about it. But wait . . . notice the words, “what their child said happened.” To have a clear picture as to what took place, it might be helpful to get the teacher’s perspective too, right? Or with the scenario of the child crying because he is picked on, or at least saying that he is picked on. Before we have the other child tossed out of the school, it might be wise to get both children together to discuss what is actually taking place. Could it be that they’re good friends who don’t know how to play properly together, so the one child seems to get physically or emotionally hurt on a regular basis? Or, does the other child really have tendencies toward bullying? We don’t know . . . which is why Matthew 18 should be applied—to find out what is going on so that the conflict can be properly resolved. This resolution may include an apology from one

Matthew 18 - Reason #2

“Do not give the devil a foothold.”

side or both sides, or it may include one child confessing that he has not told the complete

story to his parents. That Johnny had said, “It’s my ball and you can eat worms and die for all I care!” might have been conveniently left out of the initial version.

The same holds true with the scenario of the child getting into trouble for talking in class, even though he is adamant that an injustice was served. Again, it would probably be wise to get both parties together to resolve the conflict, because it is paramount that the students and parents trust the character of their Christian school teachers and their ability to make just decisions.

So, let me offer a few simple, yet important, reasons why Matthew 18 should be applied in a school setting:

1. Going to the individual who has harmed you (intentionally, unintentionally, or otherwise) is the right thing to do. Period. It may be the hardest thing to do, but it is definitely the right thing to do. Obedience to Scripture is always honoring to God. If the issue is between an elementary child and the teacher, I would recommend that the parents go with the child to the teacher to discuss the matter. If the issue is between two elementary students, it is always a good idea either for both students to meet with the teacher or principal or for both sets of parents to meet with the children to discuss the facts and seek a God-honoring resolution. If the matter is between a secondary student and his or her teacher, having the student approach the teacher privately to resolve the matter before bringing the parents into the picture is probably best. The solution varies from child to child based upon the gender of the student, the gender of the teacher, the age of the student, and the nature of the concern. The methods for applying Matthew 18 will vary, but it is critical that Matthew 18 indeed be applied.

Matthew 18 - Reason #1
Going to the individual who has harmed you is the right thing to do.

2. By not going directly to the individual you may be opening the door to the enemy: “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26b-27). Where do bitterness and resentment come from? From not being willing to face the conflict head on, or from harboring ill feelings toward another without going to that person to make things right. The enemy loves when Christians ignore Matthew 18. Why? Typically when an individual is upset with another individual and chooses not to go to him or her, he oftentimes inadvertently shares his side of the story with others. And those individuals form an opinion on the issue as well, which they oftentimes “inadvertently” share with a few other individuals. Do you see how that this pattern could cause harm?

3. Specifically, when the disagreement is between a student and a member of the school personnel (teacher, office staff, administration, etc.), by automatically forming an opinion based solely

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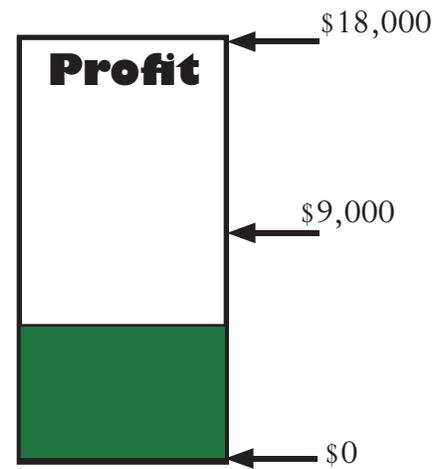
PA GIFT CARDS

The PA GIFT CARDS program allows *you* to *buy gift cards and certificates* to many local and national grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, or retailers.

- When you choose to buy a gift card through Providence Academy the vendor rebates from 2-20% to Providence.
- You can place an order using the pink forms that come home in **Tuesday folders** every other week.
- Orders are filled and sent home the next week in Tuesday folders.
- Also, **walk in table sales** in the foyer are scheduled throughout the year.
- For more information on how to participate, call Bob and Harriet Buchanan at 423-232-6587



Your Purchasing Power - Helping PA!



The profit from sales goes to Christmas bonuses for faculty and staff.

continued from page 6 **THE MATTHEW 18 PRINCIPLE** upon the child's version, without even hearing from the school personnel, the parents are in essence allowing the student to pit them (the parents) against the school. **The term that best describes Providence Academy's role in education is In loco parentis, a Latin phrase meaning in the place of the parents.** In other words, we fully recognize that the persons primarily responsible and accountable before God for the education of the children are the parents. We are simply *in loco parentis* when the parents are not there. But our covenant agreement, as it relates to our assisting in the education of the children, is with the parents. **For that reason, parents and school personnel must maintain unity before the students.** Even when disagreements come between the parents and the school, they should be handled privately, not in front of the children. Will the school always be right? I seriously doubt it. But are the school's judgments most often times fair and reasonable, based on clear evidence, and in line with what we feel is in the best interest of the students and the parents? Absolutely. When we have made an unfair judgment, we are more than willing to admit it and apologize, which is

why it is important that we hear from the one who has an issue with us so that we can either share pertinent information that might bring the situation into greater focus, or realize our error so that we can make things right. Either one of those resolutions would be fine, but it's never fine for the school to be pitted against the parents. When the trust factor between the parents and the school is cracked, it usually isn't long before the relationship crumbles to the ground. Thus, the parents need to trust the school and communicate this trust in front of their children. The parents need not react when a child is upset, says he was treated unfairly, cries, or whatever, by verbalizing to the child or to others what the school has "apparently" done. Instead, the best approach is to follow Matthew 18, going directly to the other individual involved.

Matthew 18 - Reason #3
To maintain unity between the school and the parents.

In future articles we will discuss when and how we should apply Matthew 18, but at this time I will simply leave you with two relevant passages of Scripture:



"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity...For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore"
Psalm 133:1,3b

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"
Ephesians 4:3



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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TAX LAW TO HELP P.A.

The Pension Protection ACT of 2006

The *Pension Protection Act* (PPA 2006), is of particular interest to those persons at least 70 ½ years old that hold IRA accounts. The PPA 2006 presents tax-saving opportunities in 2006 and 2007 regardless of the resources a person might have. **This new law allows anyone over the qualifying age of 70.5 to make a special gift of up to \$100,000 to a qualified, non-profit Christian ministry without negative tax consequences.**

Please see your financial advisor for further information.

Grandparent Cook-Out!
Mark Your Calendar:
Friday April 13, 2007

IAN SAMS NISWONGER SCHOLAR

As a Niswonger Scholar, Ian will be able to attend the University of his choice (contingent upon his acceptance at the school). Ian was one of 10 scholarship winners this year and he was chosen from a group of 24 finalists. The finalists went through an interview and wrote an essay. Ian's classical training served him well. Mrs. Harbin our College and Career Counselor worked closely with Ian to ensure that his application and submission package met the program's requirements, and Ian shared this comment with Mrs. Harbin **"I never thought I'd be able to go to the college of my choice and money would not be an object. I have been so fortunate to have the best teaching possible at PA. I know that without them and without God's true providence, I wouldn't have been given this amazing opportunity."**



Ian Sams

The Niswonger Scholarship is designed to benefit both the recipient and the community in which he or she lives. In exchange for each year of financial support, recipients pledge to return to their home communities for at least one year of employment in the career of their choice. In addition, scholars participate in some of the best leadership training available. Scholarships are awarded based upon merit, need and most importantly, leadership ability. Because Niswonger Scholars are training to be future leaders, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to both personal excellence and the betterment of their communities.

Congratulations Ian!