FALL 2011

the

Providence Post

Secondary Newsletter

Letter From The Principal

It is hard to believe that the first nine weeks of school have passed. As we approached the end of this first part of the school year, my mind turned to what I wanted to communicate to secondary parents in this year's Providence Post. While the topics were many, I finally settled on the broad topic of classical education. When Michelle and I share with others that we have placed our daughter in a Christian school that utilizes

classical methodology, our words are often met

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Save the Date!

Parent teacher conference month

Secondary parents, please note that October is parent/teacher conference month. If you would like to schedule a conference with any of your secondary students' teachers to get an update on how your son or daughter is doing, you may contact the teacher(s) directly to schedule this.

Turkey Trot 11/25

Sign up for this year's Turkey Trot 5k run/walk and help the school with the participation competition. The school with the most student and staff participants receives $1,000. www.active.com/running/johnson-city-tn/johnson-city-up-and-at-em-turkey-trot-2010

SGA!

The Student Government Association is a body of students elected to encourage and promote the mission and purpose of the school. These students are given the opportunity in SGA to develop their leadership skills and abilities. There are four executive SGA officers: president, vice president, secretary/ treasurer, and chapel liaison. These officers are elected by the student body. Each high school class has a president, vice president, secretary/ treasurer, and representative elected by their classmates. Seventh and eighth grade classes each have two representatives. There are four committees inside SGA: Spirit, Publicity, Service, and Special Events.

The SGA Constitution was ratified on August 19, 2008, with 2/3 of the voting members present. The

Constitution addresses

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Principal letter cont.

with looks of uncertainty. While most have some framework for understanding Christian education, few have any background for understanding classical education. In fact, they are even shocked to learn that the classical approach was *the* approach for a long time. As George Grant has said, "They do not know that they do not know." It is indeed a sad thing to note that we have drifted so far that we are unaware of what is missing. Therefore, my four "letters" from the principal for this school year will focus on classical education and classical methodology.

When questioned about what makes a classical education for secondary students "different" for Providence Academy students, you may feel the need to immediately talk about Latin and logic. While those are distinctives, it is the methodology that is the real difference. We teach students to *think*. Latin and logic are simply some of the tools / courses that help us in that endeavor. What do we really mean when we say we teach students to *think*? In the coming editions of our secondary newsletter, I will attempt to answer that question. For now, I think Christian writer Bradley Heath's words are a good starting place for us. In his book *Millstones and Stumbling Blocks*, Heath writes, "I was schooled as a technician for the information economy, and my illiberal education shaped my *thinking* a mile deep (technically) and an inch wide (philosophically)." In other words, he was taught content, but he was not taught how to think. As I observe our teachers, I thank God every day for the opportunity he has provided at Providence Academy. While my thanksgiving is for many things, an educational environment where students are trained to think is always near the top. Take time to thank God today for the biblically based education your student is receiving.

Spring Arts Showcase

The fine arts department is planning a special arts event on the evening of Thursday, April 28, 2011, for the students in grades seven and eight. Parents, families, and friends are invited to the showcase which will feature student artwork, music projects, choral repertoire, and dramatic interpretations and scenes. This is the first time the arts department will have an integrated arts event specifically for students in the middle grades. "We hope this event will be a really special time for our seventh and eighth graders; we want them to be able to celebrate what they are accomplishing in our classrooms," says Lindsey Hecht, secondary drama teacher. The event will be followed by time of refreshment and fellowship. Any parents who are interested in helping coordinate the event (including set-up and refreshments) should contact Claire Woodard or Lindsey Hecht. Come celebrate the arts with us!

- Claire Woodard, Secondary Choral Director (864-542-5199, cwoodard@providenceacademy.com)

Providence Running

Providence Academy travels to the Independent School National Championships

This is the first time that a Providence Academy cross-country team has traveled to a competition of national recognition. During the meet the first place runner came within one tenth of a second to running the fastest 5k ever run by a high school boy. The Providence team performed well and has a lot to be proud of. Competing at that level was a great experience and lets the team set some high goals for next years race. This race will hopefully become a Providence Academy tradition.

Checkout the results at this ESPN link: http://rise.espn.go.com/track-and-xc/southeast/2010-xc/October/NC-Great-American/Independent-Schools-Results.aspx?pursuit=TrackAndXC

SGA Cont.

issues such as the correct procedures for electing class and executive officers, criteria for all SGA officers, and the responsibilities of each officer. All SGA officers must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

The 2010-2011 SGA started off their year with a one-day workshop which included team building, brainstorming, and preparing for the upcoming year. Thomas Dismukes, founder of Stories That Tell, led the students in team building exercises, which helped to bond the many new SGA members and to encourage them in their abilities as a group. Dismukes also helped encourage the members to stand up for what is right and be strong leaders of the school. Later, committee assignments were given and committee chairs were selected. The workshop encouraged SGA members to start off the year with a positive attitude.

On September 2, the Bryan College worldview team held a leadership workshop for the members of SGA. They helped the group figure out realistic goals for the year and ways in which these goals could be reached. They further helped SGA solidify their understanding of what it means to be a leader, both in the Christian setting of Providence and in the secular community around us.

One major project the Service Committee is currently working on is the annual SGA/Second Harvest Food Drive. Not only is there competition between grades at Providence to bring in the most canned food, but also between Providence and other area schools to donate the most food to Second Harvest Food Bank. The theme verse for this year's food drive is Matthew 25:35, which says, "I was hungry and you fed me," and SGA's primary focus is on serving God by serving others.

The Special Events Committee is in the midst of planning the first special event of the year, SGA Movie Night. From setting a date, reserving space in the gym, choosing movies and getting them approved, this committee has their hands full. They want to choose movies that the student body will enjoy. Once they have generated their list of movies, it's up to the Publicity Committee to get the word out in the most creative and exciting way necessary.

The Spirit Committee is presently working on scheduling spirit days for the year. So far we have had two successful spirit days—School Colors Day and Crazy Hat Day. It is the job of the Spirit Committee to come up with fun and original spirit days that the students will want to participate in. This year each class is competing for points. At the end of the school year the team with the most points for participation will win an ice cream party served to them by the class receiving the least number of points. So far, the seventh graders are in the lead! Once again, the Publicity Committee is responsible for relating all the information and details to the student body.

This year the Publicity Committee is sponsoring an "Artist of the Month" competition. The winning student's art work will be displayed on the SGA bulletin board, The Javelin.

As you can see, SGA is working hard to make this year at Providence the best yet. They have the determination, the abilities, and the right attitude to accomplish whatever they set their minds to. With prayer and perseverance, they are sure to make this year a success.

Letter From the Board

I was recently listening to a message from C.J. Mahaney on the subject of joy, and he mentioned three things a believer should be focusing on to enable one to live a life filled with joy. It occurred to me that each of these three areas are relevant to life at Providence Academy, as PA hopefully serves as a source of joy in our lives, considering the role it plays in helping us to educate and nurture our children. The three areas he mentioned are:

1. Gratefulness to God – We have much to be grateful for at Providence. Our students, families, faculty, administration, and physical plant readily come to mind. Just reflecting back on the past year, we also can be grateful that PA has a significant number of new students and families this fall, exceeding our projections for enrollment this year and more importantly, bringing new friends into our midst. In addition, we've just come through a very difficult economy with no layoffs or insurmountable economic issues in the management of the school. God certainly continues to bless us in many ways!
2. Faith in the future – God gives us many great promises to remind us of His provision and goodness for us. Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:31-32, and Hebrews 11:6 are all reminders of God's gracious provision for us and are reasons why we should look to the future with faith and eager anticipation. These are promises we can claim for our lives, our children's lives, and the future of Providence

   Academy as well.
3. Affection for believers – Christ died for all of us. His sacrifice is not just for you or for me, but for all who are in the body of believers. For that reason, we should have a great deal of Godly affection for our brothers and sisters in the Lord. This should be true in the local church, the church universal, and in our family of believers at Providence.

May this school year at Providence be one of great joy in the Lord as we contemplate and meditate on being grateful to God, having faith in the future, and affection for our brothers and

sisters in the Lord who are co laboring with us in the Gospel and at Providence!

Robert Smith

Mission Statement

Providence Academy equips students to achieve academic excellence and spiritual maturity through a biblically based, Christ centered,

classical education, so they will think and live in

Coram Deo

Providence Academy

2788 Carroll Creek Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

www.providenceacademy.com

Contacts

Administrator- Jerry Williams

jwilliams@providenceacademy.com

Secondary Principal- Dustin Williams

dwilliams@providenceacademy.com

Logic Level Dean of Students- Ben Holland

bholland@providenceacademy.com

Development Director- Mark Koscak

mkoscak@providenceacademy.com