A Scene from the Secondary Drama Department’s Production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
Education at Providence Academy is defined as inherently different than public education in philosophy and content. Education at Providence Academy is intended to be inherently different in philosophy and content from the education offered in the state schools. We strive to operate as an extension of the family, under the assumption that the education of young people is the responsibility of parents and their immediate family rather than the responsibility of the state. PA provides a biblically-based curriculum and teaches all subjects as parts of an integrated whole with the Scriptures at the center.

In conjunction with the biblical emphasis, PA strives to follow a “classical” and Christian education, as described in Douglas Wilson’s book Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning and Dorothy Sayers’ “Lost Tools of Learning” essay.

OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

Education at Providence Academy is defined as inherently different than public education in philosophy and content. Providence Academy attempts to operate as an extension of the family and to foster spiritual development and a biblical worldview in the lives of its students. This includes leading students to develop a biblical understanding of morality and to pursue a life that is governed by the biblical moral code. The school works in partnership with families to achieve these desired outcomes, which necessitates that both the school and home come under the authority of God for the benefit of the student. At all its levels, programs and teachings, Providence Academy seeks to:

• Teach all subjects as parts of an integrated whole with the Scriptures at the center (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
• Provide a clear model of biblical Christian life through its staff and board (Matthew 22:37-40).
• Encourage every child to begin and develop his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).
• Emphasize grammar, logic, and rhetoric in all subjects.
• Encourage every student to develop a love for learning and to achieve his academic potential.
• Provide an orderly atmosphere conducive to attaining these goals.
• Encourage all children to pursue a life that is governed by the biblical moral code.
As Head of School, I am blessed to have the opportunity to work at an institution that has such a solid foundation. As we start our 26th year, Providence Academy has an outstanding faculty and staff, a beautiful campus, a strong group of families, a strong financial picture, an outstanding group of students, an outstanding academic reputation, a talented alumni base, grandparents who are supportive, and a bright future. There are many who have contributed to that foundation to whom we owe our thanks. From founding board members who laid out a vision and acted on it, to those initial families who saw the vision and entrusted their children to PA, to Jerry Williams who poured 22 years into leading and growing the school from a fledgling start-up to one of the most respected classical Christian schools in the nation.

There are many teachers and administrators who have contributed over the years to the success of Providence Academy. We celebrate Lynne Little who has made such a significant contribution over approximately 15 years in several roles from teacher to Elementary Principal to Academic Dean. Lynne and Dr. Beverly White have blessed our students and families with continued development of the excellent academic curriculum that is a distinction of PA. Many others who have made significant contributions and have recently retired or moved on to other pursuits include Sherry Poe, Rebecca Reynolds, Melody Shannon, Cathy DePriest, Deanne Toye, Pam Holben, Dana Stover, Bill Bledsoe, Patrick Mitchell, Glenn Hudson, and others. When you see these individuals, please thank them for their contributions to Providence. But don’t stop there. All of us can do a better job at expressing our ongoing appreciation to our current faculty and staff who pour themselves into our students every day. We are so blessed that God has sent us people with a heart for students and Christian education.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of God’s mission here at Providence, and my commitment to you is that I will do all that I can to ensure that Providence Academy continues to be true to its original calling as a Christ-centered, classical, and discipleship model school. Please keep us in prayer as we move forward in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Ben Holland
Head of School, Providence Academy, Johnson City, TN
The secondary drama program, led by Marilyn Tagert, presented three performances of the C.S. Lewis classic *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* during April. The play was performed in the school’s gymnasium. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is part of the Chronicles of Narnia series. Siblings Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy stumble through the back of a wardrobe into the frozen kingdom of Narnia, which is being ruled by the evil White Witch until the lion Aslan returns. The secondary drama program has a major production each year alternating between a musical and a drama.

Photo Credit: David Clapp

#### ELEMENTARY ART

Throughout the year, students completed Prehistoric and Egyptian Art projects. On April 27, the PA Library was draped and transformed into an art gallery where students’ pieces were hung. Visiting families could stop by for some fun at the photo booth while they browsed the gallery. Displayed projects included cave paintings—which were done on watercolor paper using paints students made in class from natural materials with charcoal outlines—and jewelry—which was inspired by Egyptian royalty and crafted by the students using their own designs and material choices.

Ashley Tuell, Emma Raines, Abigail Chapman, Natadria Paul, and Sydney Turbyfield were honored at the Youth Poetry Reception on April 8. These students were selected from over 100 applicants with two of them going on to compete at the state level.

#### SECONDARY ART

The Secondary Art Show was held May 17-18 at the Tipton Gallery in downtown Johnson City. The Art Show featured work from 7th-12th grade art students.

PA students completed a mural for the Johnson City Sesquicentennial “Arts & Culture” month. It is now displayed at 137 W. Market Street behind Johnson City Transit. Kim Milburn and Jamie Burns led the students to experience the beauty of Christ with the arts!
ATHLETIC NEWS

MEET DAMON JOHNSON
AN INTERVIEW WITH PA'S NEW BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH

By Mark Koscak, Director of Development

Koscak: Damon, we are excited to have you on the team here at Providence.

Johnson: Thank you for the chance to talk about God in my life. I was 38 years old and had just finished my days as a pro athlete. The change was hard, and I went through a period of darkness. For years I had been living a selfish life focused on money and material things, but God was showing me that there was more to life than money and things. I lived in Knoxville, an hour and a half away from my daughter, my mom, and the place where I grew up, and God used family to bring me back to Johnson City.

Once back in Johnson City, I got into a Bible study and church, and I was baptized. Shortly thereafter, I did some things I wasn’t proud of and hurt some people, and inside I knew I had changed. I couldn’t live like that anymore. I didn’t want to hurt others, and I needed to change my behavior. I needed to give the Lord the keys to the car and let Him drive. I needed to let Him be the Lord of my life. I got out of the driver’s seat, and I have been on a ride ever since. It sounds crazy, but He is my chauffer. That’s how good He is! My new role at Providence Academy is living proof. It gives me the opportunity to do three things that I love to do: teach basketball, teach kids, and tell kids about God - you can’t necessarily do that everywhere.

Koscak: How did you know that you were called to work with kids?

(Continued on page 6)

NEW VOLLEYBALL COACH ANNOUNCED

Head of School, Ben Holland, along with Athletic Director, Martin Sells, announced the hiring of Taylor Fink Goines, decorated college standout to the position of Head Volleyball coach on May 1. Goines has served as both the junior varsity head coach and an assistant varsity coach at Science Hill High School in Johnson City (2015-2016) before taking an assistant coach position at UVA-Wise (2016-2018).

A 2015 graduate of Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee, with a degree in exercise and health sciences, Goines is a decorated former setter for the Lions volleyball team. The three-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American led the Lions to regular season championships from 2012-2014 not to mention AAC Tournament titles in 2012 and 2013 and was named to the AAC All-Tournament Team all four years. During that time, she served as an assistant coach for a pair of high school club teams and was an assistant coach for the 16U C4 Explosive Volleyball Club in the winter of 2014-15. She was also a standout in the classroom, garnishing AAC All-Academic honors as a junior and senior.

PROVIDENCE PARTNERS WITH SILVERBACKS FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

Ben Holland recently shared that the Tennessee Silverbacks football program has agreed to make the Providence Academy campus their home. Games will start this fall. A football field will be created this summer for the Silverbacks to use for practice and games. The Silverbacks are an independent, Christ-centered football and cheerleading program, and Providence Academy students who have an interest are encouraged to get involved in this program.

The Silverbacks play 11-man tackle football and are members of the Pioneer Football League (PFL). The PFL is a conference of similarly-structured, like-minded programs founded in 2000 on Christian principles with an emphasis on helping young men and women develop biblical character traits such as self-control, selflessness, and perseverance.

For more information about the Silverbacks, contact Terrance Tyree at 423-737-8196 or visit tnsilverbacks.com.
I am excited about what God is doing at Providence Academy! We have an outstanding foundation, and I am grateful to the people that have worked so hard to create that foundation. With thankful hearts we are seeking to continue to build upon it, knowing that we have a responsibility not to rest on our past successes. We can always improve! Many of the changes that have been or are in the process of being implemented have been long in the planning stage, and it is exciting to see them come to fruition! The board and our Head of School, Ben Holland, believe the Lord has an even brighter future for Providence Academy! We look forward to being able to provide more families a Christ-centered educational option as we move forward and expand our offerings. The planning for the capital projects takes longer, but there are some areas that we have been able to implement over this last year, and the list is impressive. The challenge will be to coordinate a lot of new moving parts! Change is never easy to implement. New activities will need to be coordinated, and new people will need to be oriented to Providence Academy, and the truth is that there will be a learning curve. Please pray for Ben and the leadership team as they work to lead and manage change. Here are just a few of the exciting actions taken in recent months:

- Hired Dane Bundy as the Secondary Principal
- Hired Debbie Weaver to be the Pre-K Program Director
- Hired Gina Gill to Implement the Strings Program
- Hired Pastor Vincent Dial to Lead the New Percussion Program
- Scheduled a Faith-Based Anti-Bullying Seminar
- Implemented the Annual Stakeholder Feedback Survey
- Hired Taylor Fink Goines to be the New Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach
- Hired Damon Johnson to be the New Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
- Hired Jeff Reed to be the New Varsity Baseball Coach
- Began a Soccer Field Upgrade
- Began New Athletic Field Construction and Football Relationship with the Silverbacks

2018-2019 Chairman of the Board, Providence Academy, Johnson City, TN

MEET DAMON JOHNSON (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Johnson: After I finished being a professional athlete, I was praying about what I should be doing, and I reviewed my life. I always liked being around kids and teaching them. A few years ago I started a basketball program called The Chosen Few. It started out as one team and grew very quickly to 20 teams. It was an opportunity to teach basketball and teach life skills. Many are called to play basketball, but like walking with God, only a few walk the walk to become basketball players.

I have also been blessed by my daughter. When she was five years old, she came to stay with us. My mother, my brother, and I raised her. While I was in Europe and in Knoxville, my mother raised her. But, I was glad to be able to come home to be with them and to work with her on basketball. She was able to graduate college while playing basketball on a full scholarship, and I am very proud of her.

Koscak: What’s next for the Providence basketball program?

Johnson: We want to continue to improve the program. We always want it to be a place to be proud of, a place that honors Christ, and a fun place to be. I look forward to working with the students and teaching the game of basketball, as well as talking and teaching about God. Go Knights!
BEN JONES
2019 VALEDICTORIAN
Ben Jones was named the Valedictorian of the Providence Academy Class of 2019. He is the son of Randy and Dana Jones of Kingsport.

Ben was also a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship program and a recipient of a 2019-2020 Ned McWherter Scholarship.

LUKE THURMAN
2019 SALUTATORIAN
Luke Thurman was named the Salutatorian of the Providence Academy Class of 2019. Luke is the son of John and Kim Thurman of Piney Flats.

ETSU SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS
Providence Academy students participated in the Upper East Tennessee Science Fair on March 23 at East Tennessee State University. Award winners included the following students:

INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS AWARD
4th Grade: 1st Place - John Thomas

BIOLOGICAL
4th Grade: 3rd Place - Amilia Mancuso
8th Grade: 1st Place - Claire Messerschmidt

CHEMISTRY AWARD
5th Grade: 3rd Place - Kirsten Drum

GRAND PRIZE
8th Grade: Andrew Cunningham

ACSI MATH OLYMPICS
Students from 3rd-8th grades represented Providence Academy at the ACSI Math Olympics on April 5 at Asheville Christian School. Award winners included the following students:

REASONING COMPETITION
4th Grade: 1st Place Tie - Roman Damron and Mason Morgan
6th Grade: 1st Place - Brodie Fulks
3rd Place - Cheyann Bridgeman
5th Place - Ben Baldridge
7th Grade: 1st Place - Ivy Pearson
3rd Place - Jasper Williams
8th Grade: 4th Place - Elijah Gouge
5th Place - Emma Raines

COMPUTATION COMPETITION
4th Grade: 1st Place - John Thomas
4th Place - Austin Beckner
6th Grade: 2nd Place - Rachel McKinney
3rd Place - Mackenzie Gaby
4th Place - Ethan Tuell
7th Grade: 3rd Place - Drew Ballard
8th Grade: 2nd Place - Andrew Cunningham
3rd Place - Emily Barnett
4th Place - Maddie Kyker

TMTA MATH COMPETITION
Students from 8th-12th grades represented Providence Academy at the Tennessee Math Teachers Association (TMTA) high school math competition on April 9 at Northeast State Community College. Students who placed in the top ten included the following:

Algebra I: 7th Place - Steven Carpenter
Geometry: 1st Place - John Hutchinson
2nd Place Tie - Zhao Tianyu
Corinne Schmidt (’11) is a full-time missionary high school math teacher and cross country coach at Macedonian Christian Academy (MCA) in Donna, TX. MCA serves a community where more than a third of the residents live below the poverty level. Corinne recently shared, “God has given me a passion for students, and I love sharing the gospel with them everyday! I’m so thankful that God has given me the opportunity to further His kingdom here in south Texas.” As a full-time missionary teacher, Corrine raises her own support to enable her to minister at MCA. If you are interested in receiving Corinne’s email updates, or in supporting Corinne through prayer, you may reach her at corinne@schmidthouse.org. You may support her financially by giving online at missionevan.org.

Natalie Smith (’13) graduated magna cum laude from Covenant College in May 2017 with a BA in Business. She graduated from the University of Virginia in May 2018 with a Master of Science in Accounting. Natalie is currently working for KPMG in their Washington, DC, office as an auditor. She completed a four month assignment in New York City.

Brandon Hecht (’03) served as a physician in the Army for 11 years and is now practicing family medicine in Greenville, SC. He is married to Becky, and they have three children: Ryan (10), Addie (7), and Josalyn (2).

Thomas Gill (’04) recently returned to the Johnson City area to take a position at Watauga Orthopaedics as an orthopedic surgeon. He is married to Gina, and they have two children: Jonah and Canyon.

Lindsey Hecht (’05) resides in Johnson City and recently received The Everest Award for the second consecutive year at the Eastman Chemical Company Sales Summit for her outstanding sales achievements.

Chris Gill (’08) returned to the area to take a position as a pediatrician with FirstChoice Pediatrics. He is married to Christie, and they have two children: Anne Marie, a PA kindergarten student, and Harrison who is one.

Preston McMurray (’08) graduated from East Tennessee State University (ETSU) with his Bachelors of Business Administration (BBA) in 2012, followed by his Masters of Accounting (MAcc) in 2014. Preston married Kristin Love in August 2014, and they have two children, Olivia and Luke. They reside in Gray, TN. He is employed with Blackburn, Childers, and Steagall, PLC and is working on his Certified Public Accounting (CPA) licensing exam. Kristin is a Registered Nurse (BSN) and works in the Emergency Department at Bristol Regional Medical Center and in the Children’s Emergency Department at Niswonger Children’s Hospital. They worship and serve at First Baptist Church in Bristol, VA.

Prayer Request

Our 2019-2020 scholarship goal is our biggest goal ever. Please pray that God will bless his people and the community so that they can give to the need-based Annual Scholarship Fund at PA!

2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIP GOAL

$320,000

Currently about 20% of our students are on scholarship. That’s almost 100 children who receive assistance from the need-based Annual Scholarship Fund.
Kacie Hoyle Denton (’10), a fourth-year student at the East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine, received the John Snow Inc. National Rural Health Association Student Achievement Award at the National Rural Health Association Annual Conference in Atlanta. This award honors one student each year for commitment and excellence in the field of rural health. Photo Credit: Johnson City Press.

Amy Hecht (’11) married Nicholas Castellano on May 4, 2018, and is now the mother of 4-year old twin boys. She resides in Chattanooga, TN, and manages their family’s healthy vending machine business, VendWell.

Landon McMurray (’12) graduated from Clemson University with his Bachelors of Architecture (BA) in 2016. In October of that same year, he married Matney Plyler. They reside in Greenville, SC, with their fur-babies, Simon the dog and Garfy the cat. Landon is employed with the architecture firm LS3P Associates LTD in their faith studio. Matney is pursuing her dream to own and operate a coffee truck. They have recently acquired a short bus that they are renovating for this purpose. They attend CITYLIGHTS Church in Greenville, SC.

Jonathan Hecht (’13) graduated from Georgia Tech in December 2018 with high honors in Mechanical Engineering and is employed by Michelin in Greenville, SC.

John O’Roark (’14) and his wife, Hannah, welcomed Josiah on April 6, 2019. He was 8 lb. and 3 oz.

Bethany Jewett (’15), Natania Paul (’15), and Emily Stillwell (’15) were recognized at the April 16, 2019, East Tennessee State University Honors College Academic Excellence Convocation. Bethany, who will soon graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, was honored for the following: Summa Cum Laude, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Stanton Honors Scholars, and S-STEM Scholar. Natania, who will soon graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, was honored for the following: Summa Cum Laude; Community Service Award, Johnson City, TN; The One to Watch! Summit Award; and Technology Improvement Award Grant, NIH-National Network of Library Medicine. Emily, who will soon graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, was honored for the following: Roger Bailey-Otto Zinser Psychology Student of the Year Award, and Summa Cum Laude. She will be attending graduate school in the fall at Marymount University in Arlington, VA, where she will study Forensic Legal Psychology.

Reid Smith (’15) accepted a summer internship with NASA Ames Research Center in CA. He worked with the Advanced Rotorcraft Aeromechanics Research office. Reid received the James H. Sams Award as outstanding senior in mechanical engineering. He will graduate from Clemson University in December 2019 and plans to attend graduate school.

Send alumni updates and pictures to padev@providenceacademy.com
NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN.

- HEBREWS 11:1

FROM MARK KOSCAK
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

A MORE DETAILED VISION

When God, the original vision caster, gave Abraham a vision, He started by giving Abraham the big picture: “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever” (Genesis 13:14). But, God didn’t just give Abraham the big picture. In verse 17 we see that implementing a vision means getting into the details: “Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” Just imagine all that Abraham saw: trees, valleys, mountains, animals, crops, and even giants!

In the last newsletter, we shared a vision for the building addition that would allow Providence to grow from 500 to 800 students. Below we share just a few of the smaller projects that fold up into the comprehensive vision. It truly is a giant, God-sized, vision. Please keep these detailed projects and the comprehensive vision in prayer as we move forward towards our next capital campaign.

Eliminate Debt - Improve Teacher Pay
- $1,625,000 Pay-off school debt, which would then allow for a significant increase in teacher pay.

Fine Arts
- $40,000 Replace existing sound system in the gym. The current system is 15 years old and is inadequate for our needs. The new system would be on par with the systems that we rent for the annual Christian Storytelling Concert and would support all of our Fine Arts Department sound needs.
- $25,000 Outfit a percussion ensemble - This will provide percussion instruments for our initial group of 25 students.

Technology
- $30,000 Implement a traveling computer lab. This computer lab on wheels would be our third computer lab and would give us the ability to turn any room into a temporary computer lab.
- $5,000 Implement a robotics program at Providence Academy. This gift will allow us to kick-off a 2019-2020 robotics program at Providence Academy.

Sports
- $75,000 Crown and sod the new athletic/football field. This field enhancement will add additional practice space for PA athletics and will allow Providence Academy to host a community football team as of the 2019-2020 school year.
- $420,000 Install lights for the baseball and soccer fields.

To further discuss any of these projects, please contact me at (423) 854-9819 or mkoscac@providenceacademy.com.

Mark Koscak
Director of Development, Providence Academy, Johnson City, TN
THANK YOU SPONSORS

WATAUGA PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATES
Thanks to Watauga Pathology Associates (WPA) for renewing their five year advertising commitment. The WPA family of employees has been supportive of the school since the inception of Providence Academy. A WPA family member has been a student at PA for all 25 years!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE PA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT MARK KOSCAK AT (423) 854-9819 OR MKOSCAK@PROVIDENCEACADEMY.COM.
**WHY CHOOSE A CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION?**

The Bible does not give a specific command regarding the type of school to choose for educating children. Some would say it is silent on this topic. Yet, the Bible provides endless wisdom on the education of a child. The key question is not, “How to educate children?” The key question is, “What is the wise path for educating children?” God’s Word has many verses that apply to this topic including the six verses below:

1. **PROVERBS 1:17** states, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” The fear of the Lord should be the foundation of education.

2. **EPHESIANS 6:4** states, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Does inconsistency exasperate children? Why teach one thing about God at home and at church and then the opposite at school?

3. **LUKE 6:40** tells us “A child will be like his teacher when fully trained.” Will 13 years of teachers represent God’s grace, His glory, and a Christian worldview?

4. **MATTHEW 12:30** states, “He that is not with me is against me.” Can an education be neutral?

5. In **MATTHEW 28:19**, the imperative is to “make disciples.” Is the school focused on preparing for a career, shaping compliant citizens, or making disciples?

6. **MATTHEW 5:13** tells us “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?” Will our children influence the world around them, or will they be influenced by the company they keep?