



Pioneer Press

A Monthly Newsletter for  **PROVIDENCE**
High School

A Message from the Head of School, *Mr. Joe Sciuto*

Dear Providence Families,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We had a very active campus this summer with construction crews working feverishly on our Campus Enhancement Plan creating a new chapel, a new Learning Commons, new classrooms, and new offices. The new spaces on campus look great, and I know that our students will make the most out of these campus improvements.

Our Parent Association Executive Board, under the leadership of new President, Karen Buenaventura, has already been busy helping out at Pioneer Round-Up and other events. Please join me at the Parent Association's first event of the school year, "Casino Night" on Saturday, September 6th from 6:00-11:00 pm. This will be a wonderful, casual event for all PHS parents and faculty and staff to socialize. It's important to meet your child's friends' parents. As Sister Lucille Dean used to say, "You may be meeting your future in-laws!" I hope to see you there!

Our Board of Regents has added a few new members. Our Board has been bolstered by the additions of Father Francis Mendoza, Pastor, Saint Finbar parish, Ms. Stacy Smithers, parent of Zachary Smithers '17, Providence alum Sharron Douthwaite Nelson '75 and alumni parent Stephen Swofford (Brandon '14). I am so thankful for the commitment and leadership of all of our Board of Regents members.



Providence High School will remain the school where YOU BELONG HERE. Communication between school and home will continue to be a priority. Please remember to open and read our weekly e-blast, our monthly Pioneer Press newsletter and check-in frequently on our website – www.providencehigh.org . Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and please come to school events. Support your child and your child's friends at community events!

Here's to a terrific 2014-2015 school year!

Yours in Providence,

Joe Sciuto, Head of School
YOU BELONG HERE.

Meet the New Faculty & Staff



Mrs. Allison Castro '02, Principal..... I attended Saint Finbar School from 1st – 8th grade and spent my high school years at Providence High School. I am proud to say that I was involved with the Media Focus Program and the Cheerleading team. I have always known that teaching would be in my future. After graduating from Providence in 2002, I earned my B.A. in English from Whittier College and my M.A. in Teaching and Teaching Credential from USC.

After working as Vice Principal of Academics at another Catholic school, this year I felt called to return to the Providence community as Principal. In my free time I love to roller-skate, read thought-provoking texts, and travel. I look forward to working closely with the students and teachers and discovering the Pioneer spirit.

Mrs. Courtney Abruzzo, AP Arts Teacher..... Courtney Abruzzo is an honor graduate of Art Center College of Design with a B.A. in Illustration. After spending several years as a freelance illustrator working for a diverse group of clients, Courtney began teaching at St. Finbar Parish School where she has been the Visual Arts Instructor for the past fourteen years. Courtney is very excited to join the Providence family where she hopes to encourage students interested in a rigorous and focused study in A.P. Studio Art to create a body of work with an emphasis on observation, the application of design principles and the development and interpretation of visual ideas.



Mr. Raul Borja, Director of Finance, Chief Business Officer..... Raul previously worked as the Accounting Manager for the Providence Health & Services Foundations-Southern California. He holds a M.A. in English from Claremont Graduate University and B.A. degrees in Business-Economics and English from UCLA. He is delighted to join the Providence High School family.

Ryan Cadiz, Administrative Assistant to the Principal and Dean of Studies..... Ryan was born and raised in Southern California. He attended Boston University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics. He studied Japanese, French, German and most extensively Spanish. He also did much of his undergraduate research in how individuals acquire a second language. "Providence is the first school I have worked at, I am amazed at how warm and welcoming the community is," Ryan remarked. "I am very glad to have become a part of this community and look forward to what's to come."



Mrs. Chris Hardy-Schaefer, Media Focus Program.....

Chris is a graduate of Pepperdine University – BA Communications/TV production and a 2-time Emmy nominee. She has 25 years of experience in the television industry as a director, producer, writer & development executive and a 20 year member of the Directors Guild of America. From 2010- present, Chris has worked part-time (currently full time) at Providence High School, teaching Film and Television Writing, Directing and Producing. She also worked with the non-profit foundation, Operation Kids, to create, produce, direct and write the teen reality pilot **“Shoot from the Heart,”** following young filmmakers working to make positive change.

**Mr. Jeff Kubasak, Mathematics Teacher and sophomore class moderator.....**

Jeff is a Mathematics Teacher who is returning to the Providence faculty this year. He is an alum of Bishop Alemany High School and he received a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics from CSUN. As an educator, Jeff loves helping students see the subject of mathematics as a product of history. It is important to him that young minds understand that the subject isn’t done growing, and as mathematicians continue to ask questions about where the subject can go, they also understand where it has come from over the last few millennia.



Ms. Michelle Laforce, Religion Teacher..... Ms. Laforce was born and raised in Southern California. Having attended Catholic school for most of her life she is an active member of her parish community, Our Lady of Lourdes, Tujunga. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Anthropology at CSUN and her Masters of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Mount Saint Mary’s. For the past fifteen years she taught Religion and Social Studies at Our Lady of Peace School. Following God’s plan, she is thrilled to be here at Providence High School teaching Religion to the sophomore class.

Chris Madigan, Boys’ Varsity Basketball Coach PE Teacher.....Chris graduated from Long Beach State in 1988. He is in his 25th year of coaching basketball



Mr. Sean McClenahen, English Teacher..... Sean recently moved to Studio City from his home town of San Jose. He is a graduate of Santa Clara University and previously taught at his alma mater Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose. He is an avid sports fan and plans to support all Pioneer teams this year. An outdoorsman, Sean looks forward to the winter as it will bring colder weather, waves and snow (hopefully), and he can be seen around town on a bike or a skateboard exploring his new surroundings.

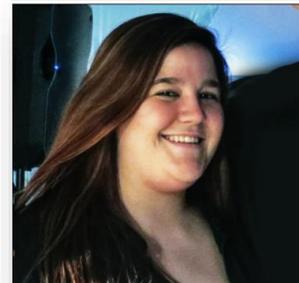


Joannes Pamatmat '03 Alumni Coordinator, Development Assistant.....

Joannes graduated from Providence High School in 2003. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism in 2007 from CSUN and was awarded a Gold Mike Award for her radio piece about driving distractions. Soon after, she became a TV News Producer and part time reporter for a CBS affiliate in Santa Maria for three and a half years. She slowly realized she wanted a career that was more interpersonal and fulfilling, and in 2011, she pursued a graduate degree. Joannes attained her Master of Arts in Humanities in 2013 and currently teaches part-time at Pasadena City College. She is ecstatic to be back at her alma mater.

Liz Reuter '07, PE Teacher.....

Liz graduated from PHS in 2007 and returned to join the coaching staff in 2008. She currently teaches two sections of girls PE and oversees the PHS snack shop. In her free time she is never far from PHS, as she currently coaches both girls' and boys' volleyball and girls' basketball.



Mrs. Jana Sosnowski, English Teacher.....



Jana is starting her eleventh year in Catholic education. She holds a B.A. degree in Print Journalism and an M.S. degree in Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology from the University of Southern California. She has drafted two novels, biked down the coast of California with her husband for a fundraiser, and is an avid baseball fan. *GO DODGERS!*

PROVIDENCE HIGH ARTS

Providence High School's Choral Director, Marisa Bradfield, has had an exciting beginning to the 2014-2015 year. Mrs. Bradfield is our newly appointed Performing Arts Department Chair and she is extremely excited about the innovative reimagined Providence High Arts.

Recently, Mrs. Bradfield has been elected to the executive board of the Southern California Vocal Association and serves as the Vice President of the Vocal Solo Competition. The Southern California Vocal Association was founded in 1939 and is a California non-profit dedicated to the advancement of vocal music at all grade levels in the schools of Southern California.

Lastly, Marisa Bradfield has accepted the Artistic Director position of the Los Angeles All Diocese Queen of Angels Honor Choir. The ensemble has been invited to make their debut performance on Saturday, September 13th, at the Our Lady of The Angels Cathedral in Downtown Los Angeles. The musical offering will be for the prelude of the Marian Votive Mass, which is the capstone of the "Grand Marian Procession" through the city that afternoon. Our very own Providence Singers will be participating in the event along with over a hundred singers from our surrounding catholic schools ranging from 5th-12th grade.



The ensemble is currently accepting new members.

For more information contact:
marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org
www.providencehigharts.org

Family Pledge Program Donor Reception

We will be honoring our Family Pledge Program donors at a private reception on

Sunday, November 16th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

In the Providence High School Quad

Invitations will be sent next month to all participants.

If you have not made your commitment yet, please mail in your pledge card

or please log onto our website at www.providencehigh.org

and click on “Online Services”, and then “Family Pledge Program” to secure your invitation to this event

(or directly click: <http://www.diamondmindinc.com/providence.html>)

All major credit cards and checks are accepted. One time gifts or regular monthly donations are gladly welcomed!

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Vickie Bagwell at ext. 14413,

Vickie.Bagwell@providencehigh.org

What is *We Care Wednesday*?

Students have proposed various Service Events, both on and off campus. For example, September 4th, CSF is partnering with the City of Burbank in a *Pack for Success* project. The goal is to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to students without means to buy supplies. On September 18th, in preparation for Emilie Gamelin week, students will be making sandwiches after school to be delivered to BTAC (Burbank Temporary Aid Center). Therefore, on Wednesdays, as parents drive through to drop off students, they are encouraged to drop off related supplies at the same time. The weekly email will indicate the event of the following week. Every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the art room, students will have the opportunity to participate in a project benefiting a local agency. Through these kinds of events, students can also log in Christian Service hours. Parents can gain parent hours for assisting in the coordination or delivery of these events. Please contact Claire.Hickey@providencehigh.org for more information.



Providence High School Pioneer Round-Up

What does the very first day at Providence High School look like? On Tuesday, August 12th, we hosted Pioneer Round-Up and welcomed all new families to our community. This event was a wonderful opportunity for new students and parents to become acquainted with the school campus, faculty, and staff in an engaging atmosphere. There were opportunities for students to get to know one another through ice-breaker activities and for parents to be oriented through informational break-out sessions with faculty and staff. The night focused on creating relationships and building community. This annual event is a meaningful start for our families who will be with us for the next four years.



From the Dean of Studies, Ms. Kerry Martin

Guided by our Catholic tradition, we will develop each student to her or his academic potential with strong moral values, a commitment to service, and a love of learning.

Providence High School Vision Statement

Welcome to the start of the 2014-2015 school year! Although I return to Providence as a veteran member of the English department, this school year marks a new start for me here at Providence serving as the Dean of Studies, so I'm truly living the call to be a lifelong learner. With the new position comes a fresh perspective on this community I hold so dear and a renewed commitment to our students' academic, social-emotional, and spiritual development.



Clear and continual communication is key as we work in partnership to develop these areas of our students' lives. One way we try to maintain that continual, consistent communication is by providing an "open window" into students' assignments and assessments. A current record of your child's academic assessments is always available through the **Aeries Gradebook**. Both parents and students should already have their log-on information. In addition, the **Portal Class Sites** for each course has the class outlines, assignments, policies, and expectations. Parents, please have your student take you on a "tour" of each class site as well as the online gradebook. Parents needing assistance can contact Parent.Help@providencehigh.org.

Regarding your child's academic performance, the 1st grading period ends Friday, September 19th. Progress reports will be mailed the next week of September 22nd. Any D or F grades require attendance at a **Student, Parent, & Teacher Conference on Monday, Sept. 29th**. Appointments are available from 1:30pm-5:30pm through our online scheduling system. Directives on how to register for an appointment can be found under the Parent tab on our portal.

The **PSAT** Testing for all sophomores and juniors takes place on campus **Wednesday, October 15th**. The PSAT not only provides realistic practice and detailed feedback, but it is also the "gateway" to **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**, which provides incredible opportunities to qualifying students. Our Counseling Department has planned a **Parents' Guide to the PSAT's and Parent Training for Naviance on Saturday, Sept. 27th**. There will also be other test-prep opportunities on campus for students, so look for those in upcoming newsletters!

I look forward to seeing everyone and addressing other **major points of interest at the first General Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30pm**.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have regarding your student's academic schedule or our course offerings.

Regards,

Ms. Kerry Martin, Dean of Studies

Kerry.Martin@providencehigh.org

818-846-8141 x14115

OPERATION GRATITUDE



On Saturday, August 23rd, 34 Providence students, along with Mrs. Castro, Ms. Katz-Curtis, and Mr. Castro, volunteered with Operation Gratitude. The students helped pack and ship over 5,000 packages to be sent to our troops overseas. The packages included books, videos, hygiene items, candy, and perhaps most important,

letters to soldiers. Many of our students spent a great deal of time writing thoughtful and caring letters to support our soldiers. It was a very meaningful day!



Providence's new Campus Ministry Core Team

Saturday, August 16 fifteen Providence students met on campus for a retreat to prepare them for their

work on Providence's new Campus Ministry Core Team. The Core Team will serve as a student-lead committee working to help prepare Ministry events for the PHS community, including masses and retreats. Topics from the retreat included understanding "servant-leadership," reflecting on our relationships with God, and planning the upcoming Freshmen Class Retreat. The new Core Team will be advised by both Mrs. Hickey (our new Director of Campus Ministry) and Mr. Estrada (campus Minister).



DiscoveryOnStage

Summer 2014

This summer Providence High School once again played host to nearly one hundred young performers, ages 5 to 15, who took part in its fourth annual Summer Acting Camp produced in association with DiscoveryOnstage. During the month-long program, students engaged in workshops including acting, stage combat, filmmaking, singing/songwriting, dance/movement and visual art. Tasked with the responsibility of generating an original play, students were guided toward the creation of one-of-a-kind characters, storylines, choreography, and lyrics and, in the end, presented a two-hour world premiere musical to friends, family, and community. It was the hope of Providence High School, through partnership with DiscoveryOnstage, to expand its recruitment reach by furthering its reputation as a first-rate provider of unique and innovative programming by way of the Visual and Performing Arts. Initiating and cultivating student interest in the Providence culture at an early age has proven successful,



as there are nine summer campers enrolled in this year's Freshman class...and about fifteen in the student body overall!

Senior Projects

Are you interested in becoming a mentor? If so, our senior class needs mentors for *Senior Projects*, which take place May 18-29, 2015. Let us know what you can teach whether it's a hobby or a professional skill. Even a couple of hours of your time is greatly appreciated. Contact Marcie Gilbert @ Marcie.gilbert@providencehigh.org

During the 2014 Senior Project program Ian Laue'14 studied computer science with mentor Mr. Robert Parmele



Senior, Pamela Ortego, Attended Yale Young Global Scholars Program!

Anxious and intimidated, I stepped onto the Yale campus for the Yale Young Global Scholars Program in Science, Policy, and Innovation insecure and doubting my knowledge and capabilities. To my pleasant surprise, however, my qualms and predispositions to my YYGS peers and the program itself were unfounded, for not once was there any sort of competition present. Instead, I felt a sense of comradery so genuine that I became more inspired to learn and grow as a person. I met amazing students from across the country and the globe, each one with their own unique culture and story.

Getting my first college experience there in New Haven was truly a blessing, and I have Providence to thank for that. When I came into the program with the belief that I might be unprepared for the rigorous coursework the professors and instructors expected out of their students, I could not have been more wrong. My teachers at Providence helped me develop the necessary writing and speaking skills I needed in order to succeed in the program. After our daily lectures and seminars - whether on climate change, solar energy, the global AIDS epidemic, or leadership in global health, etc. - we were placed in groups where we were encouraged to discuss and debate the topic for the day. Then, every now and then, I was able to have lunch with a few of the professors to further discuss an issue. Since I have been a



part of the Medical Focus Program, I was also able to apply some of the information I learned at Providence to the discussions we had during the program. In fact, for my "Ted Talk", I decided to lecture on Medical Virtual Reality: a topic I was introduced to during our field trip to the USC Institute for Creative Technologies.

This was truly a once in a life time experience that I will never forget for I can sincerely say that the Yale Young Global Scholars Program opened my eyes not only to today's global health issues, but also to my own individual needs as both a student and a young adult about to embark on life. The experience solidified my desire to continue to be a Pioneer, both here at Providence and beyond.



The Core Value for September—

RESPECT

All persons have been created in the image of God

We welcome the uniqueness and honor the dignity of every person.

We communicate openly and we act with integrity.

We develop the talents and abilities of our colleagues.



Congratulations to Junior Leila Alskaf for being named student of the month for the Core Value of RESPECT



Congratulations Mr. Dennis Bullock, Dean of Students' for being named employee of the month for the Core Value of RESPECT

