

From the Chair - Rick Lenting

We come upon the time of year that we say 'Happy Thanksgiving' to each other. It's an easy greeting, acknowledging the cooler evenings and fall colors, something that naturally occurs at the end of summer. During this time of thankfulness, one thing that we should remember is the blessing that Providence Reformed Collegiate can once again open the doors to our students and staff. This may seem like an event that naturally happens, like it even should happen because, well, that's the way our community operates. But let us all take a moment to ponder the daily blessings that our Heavenly Father provides.

In James 1:17 we read
"Every good gift and every
perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the
Father of lights, with
whom there is no variation
of shadow due to change."

God has certainly blessed us as we open our doors this fall welcoming families, students, staff, alumni and supporters into the blessing of a school we call Providence.

The Board has been busy this summer continuing in the individual tasks that each of us have been called to work on and in preparing for the 2023-2024 school year ahead. With thankfulness, we have been able to consider the report from the League school review that occurred last year. It has been a blessing to discuss this review, the

combination of parental and membership thoughts and views provided through surveys and the townhall as well as an outside view of Providence in its entirety has been helpful in directing our discussion and decisions. We have begun implementing suggestions from that review including sharing short board reports and monthly financials, a uniform code update, and granting Grade 11 and 12 students the opportunity to demonstrate their maturity by having a lunchtime offsite. Many other decisions and discussions are continuing to happen in light of the review. It has given us the opportunity to discuss what functions at the heart of this school. Is it simply a group of parents needing education for students? Could it be a shared common desire to teach our children within a biblical framework? Do we go so far as to instruct, guide and facilitate the building of a child's character that he or she grows in being an ambassador of Christ? This kind of desire for our school takes absolute commitment. Not only from the Board or teachers or volunteers but from all our supporting community! God has blessed us with a gift that we can support, with our hands and minds and finances.

This thanksgiving season, consider taking some time to acknowledge the blessings in your lives and pray how you might bless Providence in the new school year? Could it be volunteer time, serving on a committee or a term on the Board? Could it also be in a financial way that you find yourself blessed and that in prayer you feel the opportunity to help? We truly give thanks for the thoughts and prayers that you raise to God for Providence knowing that God hears these petitions and blesses in ways only He can bestow.

These past few weeks have flown by for students, families, and staff. Students have begun to settle into a good routine and enjoy the social aspect of PRC. Fall retreat was a wonderful experience to build community. Thank you to the organizers and all the staff who led and participated in the many activities.

Please continue to look for the Board short reports for updates on our activities. We look forward to seeing you at our November membership meeting!

Blessings!

In this issue:

Pg. 1: [From the Chair](#)

Pg. 2: [Principal's Report](#)

Pg. 3: [Education Committee Report](#)
[Promotion Committee Report](#)

Pg. 4: [Transportation Report](#)
[New Student Day](#)

Pg. 5: [Finance Report](#)
[Fundraising Report](#)

Pg. 6: [Fall Retreat](#)

Pg. 7: [Extra-curriculars at PRC](#)
[Make Intramurals Great Again](#)

Pg. 8: [Classroom pictures](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)

Principal's Report - Mike Vander Deen

Are you ready?

"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,⁵ he saved us..." Titus 3:1-5a



Are you ready? Our theme for the year is presents this question to our students. Our theme is "Be ready for every good work," inspired by Titus 3:1-11. What does readiness truly entail? Students and teachers alike are often asked in August and September we are ready for school – ready to teach, ready to learn, ready for high school. People ask because being ready matters.

John Calvin had a personal motto that resonates deeply with our theme: "My heart I offer to You, Lord, promptly and sincerely." Calvin demonstrated a readiness to offer his heart to Christ. This beautiful motto emerged when he grappled with the Lord's calling to embark on a path he was initially reluctant to tread. In his letter of response, he wrote,

"When I remember that I am not my own, I offer up
my heart presented as a sacrifice to God."

And with that, he went forth. Are we ready for a similar commitment to service and faithfulness in our own lives?

During our recent Fall Retreat, Rev. de Jong from the Wyoming URC challenged us not only to be ready for every good work but also to be ready for every good word – to be prepared to use our speech to do good. Our words often reveal that our hearts are filled with discontent and ingratitude. Like Adam and Eve, we frequently find ourselves unsatisfied with the abundance God has generously provided, pursuing other desires in His place. Discontentment is the consequence of disordered affections in our lives. We should, first and foremost, seek the kingdom of God, trusting that all our needs will be provided for.

At our recent Thanksgiving assembly, Rev. Vellenga further extended this challenge by urging us to embrace contentment and thankfulness. To be Christians, ambassadors of Christ, and ready for every good



work, we must learn the art of contentment. The Apostle Paul, as evidenced in Philippians 4:11-12, learned to be content in every circumstance. In the same way, we must

uncover the secret of contentment. How we lead our lives reflects the true object of our affection. It brings to mind a profound saying by a well-known Christian pastor: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." May our lives bear witness to the goodness of God, irrespective of the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Please pray that God will bless our assemblies this year under the banner of readiness for every good work. May we learn to offer our hearts promptly and sincerely to the Lord, as John Calvin did, and may we be ever ready to serve and exemplify God's love through our actions and words.



Education Committee – Rev. Vellenga

With thankfulness to the LORD, we are blessed to begin a new school year. The education committee has embarked on a new round of activities that focus on the heartbeat of the school. Always the issue of the heart remains the heart of the issue. We trust the LORD by His Word and Spirit graciously moves in all of our hearts.

As a committee the following represents a broad outline of activities presently on 'our desk'. The board has tasked us with review board policy pertaining to the education committee. It is a good opportunity to give some thought to why we do what we do.

Each year we take a certain portion of the curriculum for review—giving some thought to present practice and consideration for improvement. This year we have sub-divided the committee to take a close look at the following courses: History/Civics & Careers/Business/Law/Accounting/Phys. Ed. It is a detailed work conducted in collaboration with the teachers in their respective teaching areas.

Another assignment is classroom visiting. It is a blessed task and opportunity see the school in action. We believe it is important to take deep interest in the work of our teachers and their teaching and their interaction with the class. We give thanks to the LORD for providing PRC with teachers who love the LORD and His people. Each Ed Com member commits to visiting several classes. We have 'forms' to guide our visit and we take time following the visit to discuss the class with the teacher.

Every other year the students participate in 'The Pursuit of a Calling' and this is the year! (November 22) We look forward to those who come to speak with the students regarding the various callings/vocations that has been entrusted to their care and that may be of rotational interest to our students.

From time to time, we deal with field trip request and student resources/book requests. We have our own committee handbook we are to follow and periodically updates are required. We also reviewed the student/parent handbook. A considerable amount of time was devoted to computer use in the school and you have previously received updates in this regard. We have had a thorough discussion regarding classroom size both with respect to how many students in a class is too large and how many students in a class are too small.

Both our principal and vice principal attend our meetings and we are free to discuss openly the life and times of PRC. The Education Committee is a busy committee. It takes a lot of work 'for all the cogs in the wheel' to turn in harmony. We are thankful for the labours of the board and other committees. But above all we are thankful to the LORD for giving us opportunity to labour in this aspect of His vineyard in answer to our baptismal vows.

Presently serving on the committee are Lynda Schouten, Tracy VanBerkel, Erin Pieterman, Renskje Vanderveen, Leanne DeBoer and Will Nywening. Several members will be 'retiring' in the spring and should you be asked to serve be encouraged to plunge in with us. 😊 May the LORD continue to add His blessing..

Promotion Committee – Kevin Werkema

The promotion committee has been busy planning for this new school year. We praise God that He has blessed us with another school year. We look forward to promoting our school in the community.

We have been busy planning for the year with lots of activities. One of these activities was the PRC Kick off BBQ. The weather cooperated and it was a beautiful evening with great fellowship. The beach volleyball courts were also well used by the students.

Part of the committee's job is to provide coffee/cookies/ food for school functions which include assemblies, membership meetings, new student day, concerts, graduation, etc. With all these activities it requires a lot of planning and work. The members of this committee are Denise Vandyk, Lisette Moerdyk, Melissa Miedema, Sara Nywening, Jeannette DeJong, Amy Oosterhof, Sarah Mulder, Mike Vander Deen and board rep. Kevin Werkema.

Another part of the committee's job is to make up promotion packages, maintain membership and alumni lists, contact new members and encourage them to support the school, and to promote the school in each of the membership churches.

These two parts of the committee have proven to be a lot of work for one committee. The board has approved of splitting the committee in two. One will be the hospitality committee that will oversee food/ refreshments for school functions. The other committee will be the promotion committee which will oversee the membership side of things. It is our belief that splitting these committees will allow them to work better on there specific jobs. As of writing this article I am still looking for some members of the promotion committee. If you are interested in encouraging the community around you to support the school please contact Kevin Werkema at werkema.kevin@providencerc.com.

Transportation Committee – Bill Vanderlinde

Typically, the summer months, especially August, are the busiest months for the Transportation Committee. This is when all the busses undergo safety checks and undercoating to make sure they are in good running order for the school year. With the purchase of a new bus (and sale of our oldest one), we are satisfied that we have a fleet of solid buses to provide safe transportation. This should also minimize our maintenance budget caused by repairs and/or breakdowns, along with the associated inconvenience to parents and volunteers. August is also the time when the bus routes are developed, including updating student lists, stop times and stop locations, which requires a fair bit of effort to get the details right.

Unfortunately, this year our biggest challenge has not been in August, but instead has been the ongoing task of finding bus drivers for several of our routes. The committee has worked to fill these positions in a variety of ways, including advertising, communicating regularly with other bus service providers, personal conversations, following up on leads provided from different sources, interviewing, etc. We acknowledge that this has been at times frustrating and inconvenient for parents. Presently, the Aylmer route does not have a driver, which means parents are driving their students on a daily basis. However, we are very thankful that God has provided a full-

time driver for the Strathroy route on a short-term basis, as well as a full-time driver for the Mitchell route. A number of volunteers have also come forward from both Strathroy and Aylmer, offering to get their bus-driving license so they can drive a day or so a week as needed. This will hopefully prevent future disruptions to the routes as we will have coverage in the event of illness, vacations, etc. The committee is currently working with these volunteers to complete the required paperwork (police checks, medicals, etc.) before they are trained and tested to become licensed. This process of course will take some time but we look forward to the day we have a full complement of qualified drivers! In the meantime, we will continue to provide updates to those without bus service as new information becomes available. A special word of appreciation goes to Mr. Art Pieterman who has spent countless unseen hours working behind the scenes to help deal with these challenges.

As a committee we appreciate your patience, and we covet your prayers for God's direction and provision as we continue to work through these issues. If you have any questions or helpful information, please feel free to contact Bill Vanderlinde (Chairman, Transportation committee) Email: vanderlinde.bill@providencerc.com

New Student Day



**NEW
STUDENT
DAY**

**NOVEMBER 29,
2023**

NEW STUDENT DAY INCLUDES:

VISIT A CLASS	STUDENT PANEL
CREW ACTIVITIES	GROUP-BUILDING ACTIVITIES
GUIDANCE PRESENTATION	FREE LUNCH

Finance Committee - Ian Benjamins

This Thanksgiving weekend marks the beginning of the annual **Fall Fundraising Drive** for PRC. As many of you are already aware, the purpose of the drive is to supplement the tuition income of the school in an effort to balance the operating budget without placing undue burden on tuition paying families. The school relies on the support of the covenant community at large to assist in making Christ-centered education available and affordable for our children.

This year the goal is to raise **\$473,031** between Thanksgiving and the Christmas season. This is no doubt a formidable amount at first glance, and especially so when we try to tackle it on our own. However, when we join together before the Lord to seek His provision, work faithfully together, and give sacrificially, we can trust that our needs will be met. We ask that each of you join us in this task, prayerfully consider a donation to the drive, and give generously, as you are able.

A postcard with further details on how to donate has been placed in your church mailbox. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Ian Benjamins (chairman, PRC Finance Committee).



Fundraising Committee – Dan Kikkert

It seems the older I get, the quicker time seems to go by; I'm sure many of us can share that same feeling! God's beauty is in full display in the changing of the leaves, a month of schooling has already passed, and the Golf Tournament has come to a close. With thanksgiving to God, we can report that the Golf tournament raised about 21 500! A big thanks to the golf committee for the hard work they put in to make the day a success. We also want to mention all our sponsors who made this event possible! We are so thankful for the support of our local businesses who contributed to making this event a success. Also, thanks to all who came out and supported the school in attendance. Overall, we had about 75 golfers. The Lord blessed both the morning and afternoon golfers with amazing weather, safety, and a time of fun and fellowship with the larger Providence community. As we look forward to next year's tournament, we are hoping to return the timing back to the Spring season, so look for an announcement early next year for the save the date.

As winter encroaches, the auction committee will begin their work again on the annual auction which takes place in late Winter or early Spring. A date for the event has not yet been selected, but the committee will keep the community informed.

In close, we understand that this year is a big year for fundraising efforts. The Capital Campaign will be in full swing, the annual fall fund drive is underway, and then there are the fundraising efforts of our committee. Let's not lose heart and feel overwhelmed by the challenge before us, but let us look to our Heavenly Father who assures us in His word that with Him, all things are possible!

Fall Retreat

Our Fall Retreat is designed to build community, school spirit, and to continue to work out our theme of “Be Ready for Every Good Work.”



The day began with

students having several options to choose from to suit their interests. Some students enjoyed a thrilling game of paintball at Adrenaline Paintball in Melbourne, while others opted for The Factory, a trampoline park with rock climbing, providing an exciting blend of physical activity. For those with a taste for puzzles, a group embarked on an escape room challenge followed by a pottery workshop for a more relaxed and creative experience. Nature enthusiasts explored Komoka Provincial Park on a refreshing morning hike, and a few students relaxed by the Thames River, trying their skill at fishing beneath the Komoka bridge. Laughter and bonding were in abundance as the students enjoyed these diverse experiences, forging lasting memories. Be sure to take a look at the photos to see their smiles!

We enjoyed an afternoon assembly, and Rev. Tsijbe de Jong addressed the students on the topic of "Be Ready for Every Good Work in our Speaking," drawing inspiration from Titus 3:2. May we be ready for every good work and every good word! Following this inspirational assembly, the students continued with cooperative Crew games, organized and run by the Student Leadership Team, aimed at growing our Crew culture at PRC. We enjoyed a great BBQ dinner with hamburgers, followed by an evening campfire and sing-along. We extend our appreciation to Mr. Ellens and the diligent Student Leadership Team for their dedicated efforts in ensuring a great day for all.



Extra-Curriculars at Providence

Without question, academics are the central focus of a school, but the many extra-curricular activities have a large impact on the experience and maturation of students. It is often in these clubs and committees that students explore diverse interests and skills, are challenged to develop their character in new or challenging ways, and to cultivate a heart of service. Extra-curricular activities are also one of the central means for cultivating a culture in the school that is flourishing, positive, and brings glory to God.

Intramurals have formed such a large part of the early-school year initiative to enfold students into one body, that you'll see a lengthier description below. Many other clubs are also doing good work. The Community Service club has organized a Fall Food Drive, collecting items from local Komoka community businesses and residents, as well as from PRC families through student donations. Plans are underway to resume visits to

Country Terrace, a staple of PRC student life until 2020, when COVID precautions made this impossible.

The ARPA club plans to implement ARPA initiatives in our school and community. Some club members have signed up for an ARPA conference in the middle of October at Guido de Brès Christian High School to meet other ARPA members from other Christian high schools.

We are also thankful for the hard work of this year's Student Leadership Team. The Fall Retreat was a great success.

We believe that all students, as image bearers of God, have been given unique interests and gifts. When each of us can find ways to contribute, the entire community is enriched. We are thankful for our students and their contributions to making Providence a thriving community to live and learn.

Make Intramurals Great Again

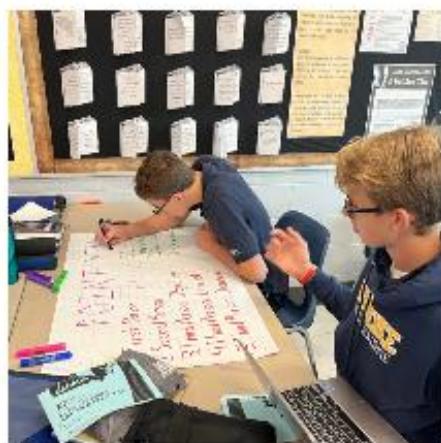
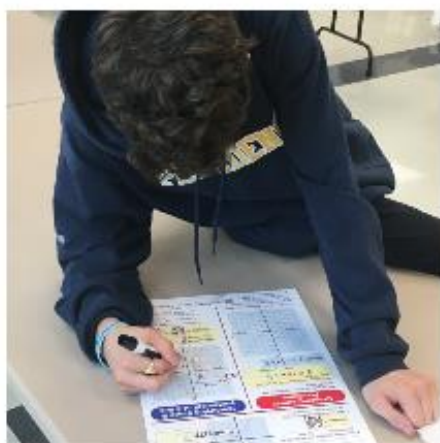
Intramurals, folks, let me tell you, this September, tremendous efforts have been put in to Make Intramurals Great Again. Our MIGA club, they're fantastic, hosted a volleyball intramural tournament with a whopping 75% of students participating. That's right, folks, three-quarters of 'em! We're talking about two weeks of fierce competition featuring the Block Party, the Spike-Taculars, One Hit Wonders, Block n' Tackle, Servivors, Volley Llamas, Block n' Roll, Block n' Awe, Smash Master, and Digs n' Giggles. What a lineup, believe me!

But let me tell you, a huge congratulations are in order for the Spike-Taculars, the absolute best team, who clinched victory and earned the right to inscribe their names onto that beautiful championship trophy. That trophy, folks, it's now on display for everyone to see in our trophy case. A real beauty, let me tell you!

I want to extend a big thank you, folks, a tremendous thank you, to our amazing MIGA club for hosting this event. They're doing a terrific job. Also, let's not forget our fantastic referees for their tremendous help, all the players who gave it their all, and all the wonderful folks who came out to cheer on our teams. It's people like you that make intramurals great again, and together, we'll keep winning! Thank you, everybody!



Classroom pictures



Upcoming Events

November assembly – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Membership Meeting – Monday, November 20, 2023

Pursuit of a Calling – Wednesday, November 22, 2023

New Student Day – Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Christmas Concert – Friday, December 8, 2023

Christmas Assembly – Wednesday, December 20, 2023