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THE PROVE

PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

A COVID-19 Recap

Senior Maria-Salome Gonzalez remembers the day the COVID struck our community. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Beginning at 11:59 p.m., on March 24, 2020, a Stay Home, Work Safe Order would be in effect within San Antonio city limits per Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Judge Nelson Wolff to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Before the Stay Home Order news, Providence issued another week of spring break, giving the impression we would be able to return once that week was over. Quarantine by definition is a period of isolation to prevent the spread of infection. From a student's perspective, we were bound to return to life before COVID-19 sooner rather than later.

Faith Hernandez '22 says "Our two-week spring break turned into a two-year ongoing adaptation, not only to a completely different schedule but a way of living our day to day lives. Our everyday schedules took a halt for about six months filled with uncertainty of the new 2020-2021 school year." Google chat and Google meet now became a part of our lives. Fridays were no longer school days but were used for extracurricular meetings and for class tests. Assignments and courses were now self-paced and all assignments were due on Sundays. Continuing with our Junior year, online classes became an option. Only about 10% of the student body went back to in-person classes. This year was kind of a "wing it" year. Everything changed and now we had to adapt-winging it- not only to the political events but also to how the way of education was changing.

Tatyana Ramon who is also a senior found the adjustment challenging. She says, "It was hard to have events during the pandemic. One of the main events that affected us the most was our school dances. Semi-formal had to be held outside by Central Catholic. We were required to wear masks and we had to distance ourselves from each other." Even though these changes were hard, everyone had a good time. Prom was another event that was affected by the pandemic. Continued on page 4

By: Maria Salome-Gonzales, Faith Hernandez, Miranda Perez, Tatyana Ramon, Faith Rogers, Kierstin Salinas



Seniors Miranda Perez, Faith Hernandez, and Kierstin Salinas taking a picture during their first year back on campus since the pandemic.

18th Annual Campus Christmas Lighting

By Alicia Calvo '23, Bryanna Fuentes '23, Joslyn Gabriel '23, Trinity Gres '23, Chloe Miranda '24

The 18th annual Providence Campus Christmas Lighting happened on Sunday, November 21, 2021. Dr. Alicia Garcia, Providence Principal, said, "I love the Christmas Lighting event because the community gathers to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas."

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Side of Providence Catholic School during the time students was away.

New PCS Teachers and Staff

Vanilla Macias-Rodriguez



By Joslyn Gabriel '23

The Science Department gained a new colleague last year during COVID, biology and environmental science teacher, Mrs. Vanilla Macias-Rodriguez.

Macias-Rodriguez said "I love it!" about Providence. She loves the community and environment of Providence; finds the administration is great, and likes the size of her classes. "My ultimate goal is for the students to love science."

Macias-Rodriguez says she is tough, approachable, and helpful no matter what the need. Ms. Vanilla says "she likes New York in general." She also loves the variety of food, people, and entertainment.

Elizabeth Sandoval

By Faith Hernandez '22 & Maria Gonzalez '22

Elizabeth Sandoval defines an athlete "as someone striving to better herself and be all that she can be on and off the court or field." As an athlete at Luther Burbank High School, she participated in basketball, track, cheer, and drill team.

Better known to us as Coach Sandoval she started her Providential journey in the 80's as a cross country, basketball, volleyball, and track coach. She is now a middle school teacher of physical education as well as a middle school assistant coach for volleyball and softball.

Sandoval is the middle school B-Team head coach; she said "the season was successful! In the St. Matthew's tournament, the B-Team won second overall and brought home a



Sr. Melissa
Cessac, CDP

By Bryanna Fuentes '23,
Trinity Gres '23

Being fairly new to a school with the uncommon position of Campus Minister, Sr. Melissa quickly adjusted.

She wasn't sure how long she would stay but she fell in love with the people at Providence; now she wants to stay for as long as she can. The door of her office in the Middle School is always open to the students and fellow coworkers. She prays over everyone especially the ones who ask for special prayers. Sr. Melissa wants every girl who attends Providence to live the mission of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Sr. Melissa always felt like she was called to serve the Lord. During her trip to Haiti she felt a powerful connection with God; praying more helped her figure out the path she was called to go. Sr. Melissa does so much for the Providence community and is loved by everyone here, with her bright smile and her encouraging words, girls feel safe going to her and feel loved.



trophy!" She adds, "Traditions start at the middle school level such as the willingness to work hard. That's where the accomplishments start."

Sandoval plans on staying at Providence "as long as

they'll keep me. The young women continue to keep me here. I'm constantly inspired by their ability to use their God-given talents to improve themselves and aren't afraid to make mistakes. The Providence environment builds confidence and is something I believe is essential to empowering women."

Christina Ward

By: Maria-Salome Gonzalez and Kierstin Salinas '22

When you enter Providence Catholic School, one may find that you are greeted with a smile and a friendly welcome. This is the smile of Christina Ward. Better known as Mrs. Tina by students. She is a part of the 1993 Providence graduating class, and now serves the community as the school's receptionist. Even after graduating Providence, she found her way back. Mrs. Tina loves being able to work where she feels involved and to be able to help with the mission of Providence; creating excellent women leaders. Her favorite thing about the environment at Providence is, "chatting with the girls and hearing their stories." She loves the community feeling that Providence students provide. Outside of work, Mrs. Tina values spending quality time with her family and watching scary movies. While interviewing Mrs. Ward, she stated that she has a son who is also enrolled at a Catholic School. Mrs. Ward is an excellent example of a

Provident woman. She understands the importance of a Catholic School education and serves where her talents can shine.

Tyler Faulkner

By: Alicia Calvo '23,
Chloe Miranda '24

Tyler Faulkner is a Veteran of the Delaware Army National Guard, and served in Afghanistan. Now, Mr. Faulkner teaches World Geography and World History to freshman and sophomore classes. Although he is a veteran teacher, teaching was not his first career passion. He originally studied at University of Lynchburg to be a lawyer.

Mr. Faulkner realized that the law was not for him. For a while he didn't know what career path he wanted to follow; however, when he took an education class, he recognized enjoyed teaching. In fact, his role model or "hero" is Mr. Feeney from a show he watched when he was younger entitled Boy Meets World. As a kid on a Friday nights Mr. Faulkner and his brother would wake up and wait to watch Boy Meets World to get all the answers from Mr. Feeney.

Now he helps our students at Providence get all the answers they need. Not only answers to homework they may have but also to problems they may face outside of school. He has quickly become a cherished member of the faculty to his students. He says he enjoys teaching at Providence and loves to see "how talented all the students are and the opportunities they have here to do many different things". Mr. Faulkner already knows the ways of Providence should help him for many years to come.



Abraham Callahan

By: Tatyana Ramon and Faith Hernandez '22

Abraham Callahan joined the Providence Community in 2020 in the midst of a pandemic. He was looking for a new challenge in his life so he decided to come to Providence Catholic School. Before joining our community he taught at St. Anthony Catholic High School. Mr. Callahan started off teaching Latin at Providence, and later added teaching history to high schoolers. Although it was a rough year trying to teach during the pandemic Mr. Callahan thinks it was revolutionary, he says, "Traditional education cannot survive anymore, so we must embrace innovation every day."

Mr. Callahan has completed 9 years of teaching, but originally didn't always dream of being a teacher, "I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I wanted to stay in school and earn a PhD and work at a university. However, that track had too many problems that I did not want to wrestle with, so I took the first teaching position I could get and I haven't changed since." Mr.

Callahan thinks the best thing about teaching is thinking of fun and nerdy academic-y things for money. The worst thing about teaching, for him, would be not being able to ask the teacher to use the restroom. Outside of school, Mr. Callahan spends his days with his wife and their little shiba-labrador. He enjoys laughing, playing video games, and eating tasty food. This year Mr. Callahan is looking forward to meaningful instructional moments in class. Teaching at Providence has been an adventure for him, and the students are wonderful and hard-working.



Sadie Villarreal

By: Tatyana Ramon '22 and Faith Rogers '22

Sadie Villarreal, new to Providence, teaches ninth and tenth grade Religion. Ms. Villarreal had heard of Providence growing up but never

thought she would teach here. She felt that the Holy Spirit was calling her to teach at Providence. Ms. Villarreal says that in graduate school she swore she would never teach. "I would have rather been a waitress than teach but the Lord is funny! I'm happy the Lord surprised me with such an opportunity."

Ms. Villarreal enjoys working at Providence because she loves teaching and her students so much. "Never did I think I would be in an environment like this, but I love it. I'm learning so much here." Ms. Villarreal loves the Church and being Catholic; she feels that Jesus has always been her rock and her best friend. "If I could help someone see the love of Christ then there is nothing more I would want for my life. Teaching gives me the opportunity to share Christ's love and his profound message of hope."

A COVID 19 RECAP

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Kierstin Salinas 22' remarked: "When we went into quarantine, I, as well as others, needed to fill time with something productive. I began to pick up arts and crafts as well as a love for animals. Being at home so often allowed me to paint and be with my pets more!" She believes this was beneficial because she needed positive outlets. With our country desperately in need of positive outlets during a pandemic, 2020 was also an election year. This was a very intense time for our country. Salinas is thankful that she was able to surround herself with the things she loved.

Faith Rogers remembers how hard coronavirus hit our community as well. "The pandemic presented a plethora of new difficulties and challenges for the school and tremendously affected the day-to-day life of both students and teachers." It has taken well over a year for our community to start coming back from this, yet slowly but surely, we are. Providence has been updating its COVID-19 protocol as the state of the pandemic changes and things are starting to get back to how they were before. Masks are becoming optional and some of the stricter policies from the peak of the pandemic are dissolving. In time, Providence will fully return to how things were and I think everyone will be grateful."

Senior Miranda Perez 22' shines a light on the positive side of things: "Adjusting to a new normal after everything we've gone through was never going to be easy, but if there's any school that can come back from it, it's Providence. Time and time again, this school has shown how much it cares about students and staff by always putting their health and safety first."

As the Providence community continues to heal, students are certain that the community is only getting stronger and coming closer together.

Spray bottles of disinfectant became part of the COVID protocols landscape at PCS.



(JROTC Cadets Helping With The Toy Drive)

18th Annual Christmas Lighting

con't from pg 1

Preparations for the event began early in November. Providence Maintenance Head Juan Casarez has been a behind-the-scenes member of the preparation team since the event began 18 years ago. This year he started decorating on November 11th and spends roughly about seven and a half hours a day to have the school fully decorated, occasionally assisted by parents.

Technology teacher Alex De La Garza creates the graphics that announce the big event. "I start thinking about the events throughout the year. If I see something that we could use for an event I archive it and store it in a folder. This one [for 2021] is inspired by a graphic I saw for a dance recital around Christmas that had an ornament as the centerpiece, and when I created this one, I used the ornament idea and added more details that made it look Christmas-y. I started working on this graphic October 26."

The day itself began at 11:00 with the raising of the flags by the JROTC cadets. Emmanuelle Mefrige '23, and Nichole Dolotina '22, served as MCs for the early part of the event. The Progressions dance team performed a Christmas Kick to Frank Sinatra's "Let it, Snow," and Evolutions performed Christmas Jazz to "Something in the Air" from High School Musical: The Musical: The Series. Said Coach Shelby Lachowitz, "I was really proud of the dancers for being crisp and clean and bringing the Christmas spirit." The Providence Show Choir also added to the Christmas spirit, performing "Carol of the Bells," "Hot Chocolate," "We Need a Little Christmas," and "Jingle Bell Rock," among others.

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HOW TO- EVENT AND FUNDRAISER PROPOSAL

By: Maria-Salome Gonzalez '22, Alicia Calvo '23

PROVIDENCE
THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GRADES 6-12

Fundraiser Approval Form

Note:

1. Any Club/Organization that has an approved budget may request a Fundraiser. Approved dates for Bake Sales, Blue & White, and after-school Concessions Sales do NOT require this form.
2. This form should be submitted with the Event Proposal Template for any event that includes a Fundraiser.
3. Once the Fundraiser has been Approved, all funds requests and maintenance requests are the responsibility of the Sponsor/Head Advisor.
4. As funds are collected, a deposit is due to the Business Office COB each day of the fundraiser. Money should not be held for more than 24 hours.

Name of Class/ Club/ Other: _____

Name of Sponsor/Head Advisor: _____

Purpose of Fundraiser: _____

Proposed Date and Time of Fundraiser: _____

Location: _____

Describe: _____

Set-up: *Maintenance requests must be submitted by sponsor/advisor.

Description of Fundraiser: Are you soliciting businesses or individuals for items:
If yes, list the name and address of the business/individual solicited:
Formal letters and documentation must go through Business Manager & Development Director so that records can be kept for tax purposes.

Clean up required: *There is no clean up required because we will have a roll of tickets and only the selected juniors will be handling the money and tickets. *All items used must be put away or cleaned up at the end of the event or activity by the students & sponsor.*

Approval:

1. _____
Asst. Principal Date

2. _____
Principal Date

Students who want to plan an event should fill out this form

18th Annual Christmas Lighting

con't from page 4

Executive Director of Advancement Elise Denoux commented that people enjoyed chicken fajita plates, Turkey Bingo, and the Christmas bazaar.

Bill Taylor, from KENS 5, was the honored master of ceremonies. The day ended with the arrival of Santa Claus riding on a golf cart, accompanied by real reindeer. And then the entire Providence Campus was bathed in light as the switch to light all lights was flipped. The lights will be up until January 1, 2022.

"It is great to see our Providence families and friends, alumnae, and CDP Sisters together playing Turkey Bingo, shopping, eating, and

While it may look to students that events happen like magic [cue finger snaps], Providence actually has a policy students must follow when proposing a new fundraiser or event.

The Fundraiser Approval Form, despite the title, is the template used to bring forth any event that is being proposed by a class, Campus Life organization or group/individual on Campus.

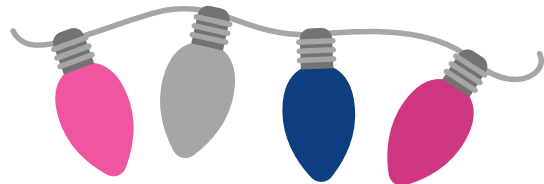
All information should be completed and submitted to the Campus Life Director at the General Student Council/Campus Life Monthly Meeting; for the 2021-22 school year, that person is Elise Denoux. If necessary, the CLD will submit it to the Administration for review.

Students are encouraged to submit the form at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration and approval of any proposal.

Any Club/Organization that has an approved budget with the School may request a Fundraiser. Once approved, all funds requests and maintenance requests are the responsibility of the Sponsor/Head Advisor, along with the students proposing the event

As funds are collected, the faculty sponsor deposits the money to the Business Office by "COB" (that means by "Close of Business") each day.

Now the Providence community - students and teachers - knows the proper way to propose an event or fundraiser! Now it's your turn to propose your ideas!



simply enjoying the day," says Dr. Garcia. "We get to showcase the talent of our Fine Arts students and end the day lighting our Providence campus with Christmas cheer."



SPORTS SHORTS

High School Cross Country

By: Chloe Miranda '24, Maria-Salome Gonzalez '22

The high school cross country team consists of ten girls which is the largest this team has ever been. Although the season ended on November 1 after State Competitions in Waco, Texas, some members of the team have continued practice with Coach Gary Brimmer in the morning to prepare for track season. Cross country is like warm up and training for the track season and now that track season is coming they have a lot more practice to show up for.

High School Track and Field

Head Coach of the high school Track and Field team, Gary Brimmer, states his desires for this upcoming season: "I predict we will have a lot of fun this season." Coach Brimmer's goals this year "are to make sure everyone learns proper skills and improves throughout the season. We will have a very young team this year." The high school Track and Field season officially starts Monday, January 3, 2022. The pre-season workouts are going on now every Wednesday at 6 am; these workouts are optional! There are typically 6-8 meets throughout the season. Coach Brimmer states, "Track and field has always been a favorite sport for me. It teaches many of the things in life that we need to learn to be successful: goal setting, planning, work ethic, overcoming challenges and disappointment."



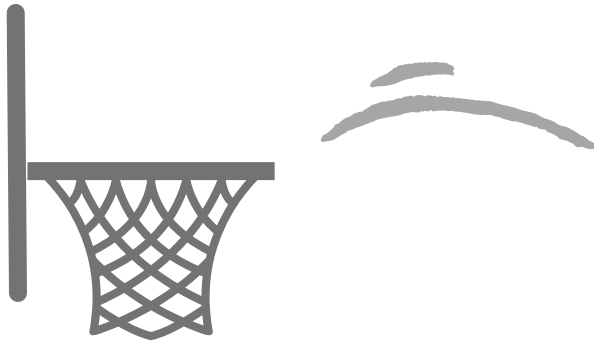
Isabella Harvey '22 finishing strong at the Central Catholic High School Cross Country Meet.

Middle School Track and Field

By: Miranda Perez '22

The PCS MS track team expects to have three athletes returning from last year's team. Coach Alex De la Garza states that "I expect a good number of sixth graders to join this year, so a good core of returning leadership with a lot of potential talent from a spirited sixth grade class, I anticipate we'll have another great year." This year is different due to a "non-COVID" year. Masks are not required anymore and gym capacity is going to be raised after Thanksgiving. The team is expecting to have four to five meets in the upcoming spring season. Coach DLG said, "Personally I love coaching track & field especially at the middle school level because I like introducing athletes to events that they've never participated in - especially the field events."

SPORTS SHORTS CONTINUED



High School Basketball

By: Faith Hernandez '22

The Providence basketball team has and continues to thrive. Providence establishes and takes pride in not only the seasonal teams but the overall program. The program is led by Alex De la Garza, known to students and players as Coach 'DLG', and Eddie Martin. With only one Varsity team this season, De La Garza predicts the season to go very well; despite having a lot of new players, the expectations on the individuals and the program never change. The first win and game occurred on Tuesday, November 2 setting the tone for the work and expectations required to keep up the streak. De La Garza has not only been a teacher but a coach for basketball since he started at Providence in the 2014-2015 school year. With every year, De La Garza's passion for coaching and the sport of basketball has grown. He says, "I love the sport personally and enjoy watching and especially love being able to pass on that passion onto my players."

Middle School Basketball

By: Tatyana Ramon '22

The Middle School basketball team consists of two teams: A team with 11 players and B team with 10 players. So far B team has won 5 games, while A team has won 6 games. They haven't won any games yet but there's still hope for their season. Eighth grader, Carlroleena Sanchez thinks that by their next game they'll definitely have a win. They played a tournament Friday, December 10, and are playing a game on Monday, December 13.



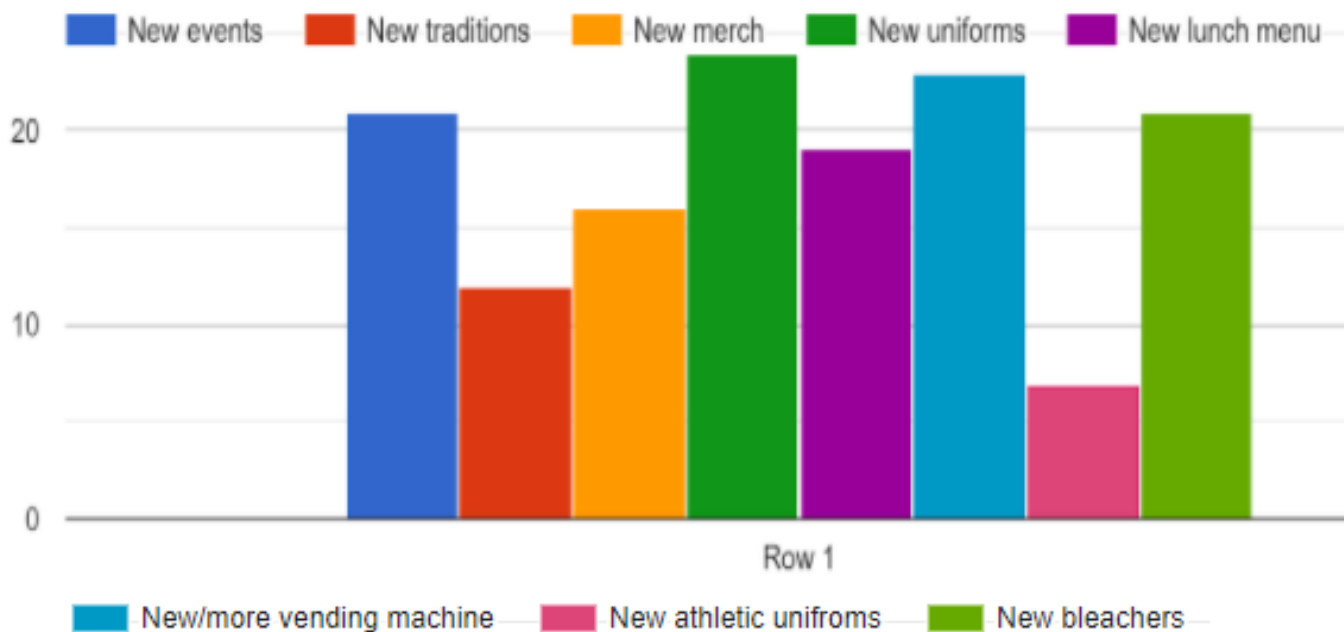
High School Bowling

By: Tatyana Ramon '22

This year's bowling team consists of 11 players, more than what it's been in previous years. Marissa Escamilla '22, team captain, has some things to say about the season. "My predictions for this season are that my team may not make it to regional playoffs, but we will surely keep up our reputation as a team to beat. My girls will keep improving and they haven't disappointed me in their progress so far. I'm striving to get the ladies on the team committed to the sport, really giving their all in each game and practice. I hope for them to have a drive, a want, to get better. They have so much potential and I want other teams to see it and get intimidated. It's all just a game though and no matter what. I hope my girls have fun every time they play at the alley." So far, no wins, as they have only played two games. The bowling team plays seven more games at Astro Super Bowl and a tournament at Fiesta Lanes.



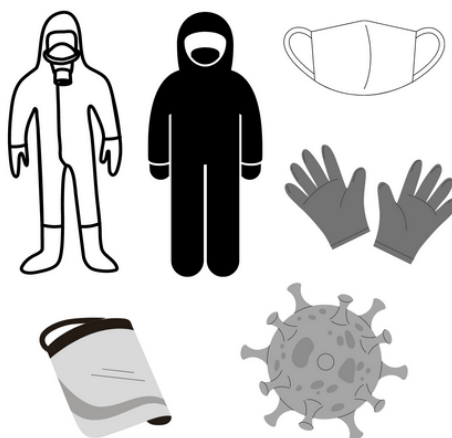
Pick two new things you would like to see at Providence?



Provue staff reporter Miranda '22 surveyed the Providence student body regarding improvements in the school they would like to see. The results above were surprising! What would you pick?



BACK TO SCHOOL OUTFITS



NEW MERCH

SELLING FAST!!!



AVAILABLE







NOW

NEW PINK AND NAVY BLUE HOODIES & TOTE BAGS AVAILABLE AT DIVINE APPAREL

The Provue

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