

PROVIDENCE

Catholic High School

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

TRAFFIC & PARKING FOR THE 17-18 SCHOOL YEAR



Thank you to everyone for your continued cooperation with traffic and parking as we transition into construction of our new Student Cafeteria and Commons. Please continue to follow the direction of the adults in the parking lots. As we get closer to breaking ground, please be aware that traffic patterns will change. We will be sure to keep you updated.

SPECIAL B SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, 9/7

Last year, Mr. Troy Cicero from MulticultuREAL led our faculty, staff, and students as we embarked on a journey of valuing diversity, creating inclusion, and building cultural competence. This year, the journey continues! On Wednesday, September 7th all Freshmen will engage in a workshop designed to build community. This will be a late start day for all sophomores, juniors, and seniors, but all freshmen are to report to their 5th period class at 7:55 a.m. for attendance. Busses will run on the A-day schedule (no late start). Sophomore, junior, and seniors will begin their school day at 9:27 a.m.

DRUG-FREE DIRECTORY

Providence Catholic will once again publish a Family Drug-Free Directory. An email will be sent to the PRIMARY contact for each student the week of September 4th with instructions and a link to allow you to add your family information to this directory. The directory will be published and emailed to all participating families the week of Homecoming.

SACRAMENTAL PREP OFFERED AT PCHS

The Pastoral Department will conduct sacramental preparation for those who would like to be baptized in the Catholic faith or receive their 1st Communion or Confirmation. If your child is interested in preparing for the reception of any of these sacraments, please call Mrs. Annie Persicketti at (815) 717-3139 by Friday, September 8, 2017.

ROAD TO REALITY COMING TO PCHS: WEDNESDAY, 10/4

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website reports, "alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States." The consequences of underage drinking are all-encompassing, impacting family, school, and the local community. Logically, any initiative to reduce or eliminate the alarming trend of teen alcohol abuse must also be far-reaching, promoting a partnership between parents, school officials, and municipal and village leaders. Providence Catholic has entered into such partnership with local and county wide groups to bring **Road to Reality** to PCHS on Wednesday, October 4th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Biennially, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) anonymously surveys students enrolled in grades 8, 10, and 12 as a way of gathering and tracking reliable data on substance abuse patterns among teens. The ISBE has published the general statewide results in a report known as, the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS), along with a customized school report detailing how our own Providence Catholic High School (PCHS) students responded to the survey. **IYS 2016 PCHS results** indicate that 59% of our 10th graders and 84% of our 12th graders admit to using alcohol within the past year, while 23% and 36% of 10th and 12th graders respectively report using alcohol within 30-days of completing the survey.

The administration and faculty of Providence Catholic High School are committed to combating this alarming rate of student alcohol abuse, by reshaping their view of reality. **Road to Reality** is a powerful and compelling program illustrating the potentially horrifying consequences of underage drinking and drunk driving. Relatively small groups of 15-20 students, and parents will be escorted along the **Road to Reality**, six carefully scripted scenes depicting the decisions made and consequences of, under-age drinking. By design, the program is intense, suitable for high school students and their parents. While some middle school students may be mature enough to handle the content, we do not recommend it for any child under twelve years of age.

Please watch for more information on this very important event via email, as well as upcoming newsletters.

BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS

Bookstore "angels" are parents and grandparents of our students who volunteer in the Bookstore for a specific shift each week either before school (7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.; No Thursdays) or after school (2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m.; no Fridays) to help in daily routine of selling Celtic spirit wear to students. If you have time available and can volunteer, please contact Mrs. Alice Hartel via email at ahartel@providencatholic.org to be added to the schedule.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Once school begins, students are covered by the Christian Brothers Services Student Accident Plan that is designed to act as a **SECONDARY/ADDITIONAL** plan to your family's primary accident and medical insurance coverage. Please remember, you are responsible as the primary payer to any doctor who treats your student. Providence Catholic is not responsible for any medical costs, even if treatment is recommended by a Providence faculty or staff member. If your student is injured at school, the supervising adult is required to complete a claim within 24 hours of the accident. These forms are mailed to parents. In the unlikely event that you do not receive this report within two weeks of the injury, please contact Ms. Laura Ziesmer at (815) 717-3176, or via email at laziesmer@providencatholic.org.

QUIKLUNCH: CAFETERIA PAYMENT PROGRAM

We are pleased to continue to offer students a more convenient method of payment in the cafeteria. In addition to paying with cash, students can also use their Providence Catholic School ID card to pay for breakfast and lunch items.

Parents can manage their child's meal account via the web using PayForIt.net. With PayForIt, parents can log in at any time to make a deposit to their child's account, view their child's account balance, set up recurring deposits to their child's account, set up e-mail notifications when their child's account falls below a certain dollar amount, or request a report showing what the child has purchased on their account. Parents can add money onto an account online, or drop off a check in the Main Office.

Representatives from our Food Service Department will be on hand in the cafeteria during Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday, August 30th to answer any questions, as well as collect cash or check payments for accounts.



The Harvest Drive is the only mandatory student fundraiser and begins on Monday, August 28th. Information concerning this year's Harvest Drive is included at the end of this newsletter. You can also visit the [Harvest Drive page](#) on the PCHS website. Every Providence Catholic family has a fundraising obligation of \$350 per student, or \$500 per family with two or more children at PCHS. Students who exceed their obligation by a minimum of \$100 will earn tuition credit or gift card prizes. Top-selling students and families will also earn up to \$5,000 in tuition credit. Students who do not raise their fundraising obligation will have the difference between their required quota and the amount they raised added to their tuition statement in November. This difference must be paid immediately, and cannot be spread out over the remaining tuition payments. Details for Harvest Drive 2017 are included in this newsletter. For any questions pertaining to Harvest Drive, please contact our Harvest Drive Coordinator, Mrs. Karen Mahalik at (815) 717-3161, or via email at kmahalik@providencatholic.org.

HARVEST DRIVE TICKET DISTRIBUTION: MONDAY, 8/28

Harvest Drive officially begins on Monday, August 28th! Below is important information concerning ticket distribution.

- Harvest Drive tickets will be distributed at the end of 7th period on the date above.
- Families with 2 or more students will receive 50 tickets (\$500) and the tickets will be given to the oldest student. Individual students will receive 35 tickets (\$350).
- All forms and information associated with Harvest Drive are now available on the [Harvest Drive section](#) of our website. For additional questions, please contact Harvest Drive Coordinator, Karen Mahalik at (815) 717-3161.

HARVEST DRIVE RETURNS DAY: THURSDAY, 9/14 & WEDNESDAY, 9/20

Students can turn in Harvest Drive money, tickets and paperwork on the days above in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Gym prior to classes starting at 9:27 a.m.

Students who have sold raffle tickets and/or have sold ad listings that were not submitted online or thru the mail, should complete a [Money Turn-In Form](#).

BONUS: *Students who return at least \$100 on each of the return days will be entered into the Charlie Celtic Raffle, which will give away three \$100 prizes.* For instructions on what to turn in and for more information on the 2017 Harvest Drive, visit the [Harvest Drive page](#) on the PCHS website, or contact Mrs. Karen Mahalik at (815) 717-3161.

HARVEST DRIVE OLYMPICS: FRIDAY, 9/22

12:30 P.M.-2:35 P.M., SACRED HEART GYM (BIG GYM)



Students compete alongside their classmates, against other classes and faculty/staff members, to celebrate the end of Providence Catholic's annual fundraising drive, the Harvest Drive. Please watch the Daily Announcements for how to sign-up for Olympic events, as well as dress code for the day. Students will be dismissed at the regular dismissal time of 2:35 p.m.



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER AT-A-GLANCE

Below is a snapshot of some important events in August and September. Please refer to the calendar on ParentsPlus Portal for the most current listing of all school events.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR: FRIDAY, 8/25

10:25 A.M. – 12:05 P.M., IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY GYM (SMALL GYM)

Students will have a chance during 4th period to explore the clubs and activities Providence Catholic offers, as well as speak to members and moderators of the clubs. For a full listing and descriptions of PCHS clubs and activities, view our [Student Activities Handbook](#). Always check the Daily Announcements for club and activity meeting times, dates and events.

FEAST OF ST. AUGUSTINE/OPENING SCHOOL MASS: MONDAY, 8/28

9:00 A.M., SACRED HEART GYM (BIG GYM)

We hope you can join us for our All-School Mass as we celebrate the Feast of St. Augustine and welcome our freshman, transfer and international students, as well as new faculty and staff to the Providence Catholic Family. Parents, you are always invited to attend our All-School Masses. Dates and times for all of our Masses can be found on our website.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT: WEDNESDAY, 8/30

BELL RINGS FOR 1ST PERIOD AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us for Meet the Teacher Night where parents become the students! Parents will follow their student's daily schedule and have an opportunity to meet teachers and become acquainted with classroom policy, expectations and grading policies.

The Celtic Bookstore will be open for your spirit wear needs, and representatives from the following organizations will be available in the cafeteria before, during and after the event:

- PCHS Men's & Women's Club
- PCHS Food Service/QuikLunch
- Top Driver Driving School
- ACTup Reading Program

Please note: Meet the Teacher Night is not the time to discuss your student's progress with teachers. Please email or call the teacher to set up a time to discuss student-specific concerns.

NO CLASSES: LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

SENIORS & PARENTS COLLEGE NIGHT: TUESDAY, 9/12

7:00 P.M., IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY GYM (SMALL GYM)

Seniors and their parents are invited and strongly encouraged to join Mr. Kyle Murphy and Mr. Frank Palmasani, our college counselors, for College Night. They will provide important information on application procedures, the Common Application, the Naviance Family Connection and walk you step-by-step through the application process, with time to answer all of your questions. This will be a great follow-up to the meetings you had with them last spring. Please plan to join us!

MASS/COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: FRIDAY, 9/15

9:00 A.M., SACRED HEART GYM (BIG GYM), FAMILIES WELCOME

MASS & JUNIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY: TUESDAY, 9/26

9:00 A.M., SACRED HEART GYM (BIG GYM), FAMILIES WELCOME

Please join us as we celebrate an All-School Mass honoring the Junior Class. Juniors will be dismissed for the day at the end of mass. Enjoy this special day!

BOYS KAIROS: TUESDAY, 9/26 – FRIDAY, 9/29

Many blessings and prayers for the candidates, student and adult leaders who will be attending our first Kairos of the year at the Bellarmine Retreat Center in Barrington, IL.

WORLD HABITAT DAY DRESS-DOWN DAY: FRIDAY, 9/29



Please join Habitat for Humanity in recognizing and celebrating World Habitat Day on Friday, September 29th. World Habitat Day is the one day set aside annually to recognize the basic right of all humanity to have adequate shelter and to encourage grassroots action toward ending poverty housing. Dress down stickers will be sold by Habitat for Humanity members during lunch periods Monday, 9/25 – Thursday, 9/28 for \$2 each. Tickets sold Friday morning, 9/29, will cost \$5 each. All funds raised will be donated to the Will County Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

CALLING ALL FUTURE CELTICS!

8TH GRADE SHADOW DAYS: ONLINE REGISTRATION

Shadow Days for 8th graders will begin September 8th! For more information on our Shadow Days, and to schedule a visit online, please visit the [Shadow Day](#) section of our website. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Rachel Ellingson, Director of Enrollment at (815) 717-3160, or via email at rellingson@providencatholic.org.

PCHS OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY, 11/19

The Providence Catholic Open House will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you have friends and family interested in considering Providence Catholic, please encourage them to attend. Tours begin every few minutes from the Sacred Heart Gymnasium. All academic, athletic and extra-curricular programs are represented on this day, as well as many other Providence Catholic departments.

This time is a wise investment for serious parents and students. Providence Catholic parents are our best spokespersons. Please tell others about your satisfaction with Providence Catholic and assist us in spreading the good news about Catholic education.



8TH GRADE PLACEMENT EXAM, SATURDAY, 12/2/17

All current 8th graders who would like to be considered for admission to Providence Catholic as freshmen in the fall of 2018 must take the placement exam on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Students should arrive by 7:45 a.m. The test fee is \$25.00. Please note that calculators are not permitted for the exam. If you are a Providence Catholic family and have an 8th grade student, they must take the placement test on this day to be considered for admission.

For more information on all upcoming future Celtic events and the PCHS admissions process, please click on the link below:

PCHS ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

JR. HIGH IMEA AUDITION CLINIC: TUESDAY, 9/19

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Calling all District 1 students in 6th - 8th grade who are auditioning for Jr. IMEA Choir! Let the PCHS Singing Celts help prepare you for your big audition! During this FREE clinic, the PCHS Singing Celts will assist outstanding Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass singers with all aspects of their upcoming audition. Students must bring their audition music and a pencil. Water bottles will be provided. Entry is through Door #9.

Students should pre-register online by Sunday, September 17th so that we have enough practice materials. Register by [clicking here](#). Further questions may be directed to [Dr. Stacy Eckert](#), Choir Director at (815) 717-3321.

PARENTS: GET INVOLVED



Click on the logos above for more information on how to become involved with the PCHS Men's & Women's Clubs.

Flyers for upcoming Men's & Women's Clubs events are included at the end of this newsletter.

[Men's Club Welcome Back Steak Fry: Monday, 9/11/17](#)

Stay Connected with Providence Catholic

Click on the logos below to connect online with PCHS!



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC Harvest Drive

Dear Parent(s):

Providence Catholic's Annual Fall Harvest Drive is right around the corner! Now is the time to start putting together a list of potential patrons to help you reach your fundraising goal. Please take a moment to review this newsletter to familiarize yourself with the details and important dates relating to this **MANDATORY student fundraiser**, which officially kicks off on **Monday, August 28**.

Many questions may be answered by visiting the Harvest Drive page of the PCHS website. If you are unable to find an answer, please feel free to contact me at (815) 717-3161 or email your question to harvestdrive@providencecatholic.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Mahalik '91

Harvest Drive Coordinator

HISTORY

The Fall Harvest Drive was initiated in 1968 to raise funds for Providence, which was facing a serious financial crisis. In an effort to prevent Providence from closing its doors, the school held a car raffle and carnival that generated \$15,000 the first year and \$32,000 the following year. Encouraged by the results of this fundraising effort, the Joliet Diocese decided to keep the doors open. Since then, the Fall Harvest Drive has become an annual event, which enables Providence Catholic to keep its tuition competitive with other private schools in the area. Students raised more than \$366,000 last year.

Important Dates

Mon, Aug 28 Harvest Drive kicks off*

Thurs, Sept. 14.... Money Turn-In (Day 1)

Wed, Sept. 20 Money Turn-In (Day 2 - Final)

Fri, Sept. 22 HD Olympics/Raffle Drawing

*Raffle tickets & instructions will be distributed to students

PURPOSE

The Fall Harvest Drive is a **MANDATORY** student fundraiser that involves the participation of the entire Providence Catholic community. Income generated through the Harvest Drive is vital to the financial stability of the school; proceeds are built directly into the school's operating budget. Thanks to the support from the local community and area businesses, Providence is able to keep tuition increases at a minimum and still provide an outstanding college preparatory education to its students.

DATES

Each student is required to raise a minimum of **\$350**, while families with two or more students at Providence are required to raise a minimum of **\$500**. Each family will receive raffle tickets worth their required quota (**\$10 per ticket**). These tickets along with a reference guide will be distributed to students on **Monday, August 28**. Students may reach their mandatory fundraising quota by selling raffle tickets **and/or** selling advertisement listing(s) that will appear in the Harvest Drive E-Directory via the PCHS website. All unsold raffle tickets must be returned to avoid additional charges. This year's Drive begins on **Monday, August 28** and concludes on **Friday, September 22**. Please visit www.providencecatholic.org (select the Harvest Drive link) for more information or to view/print forms.

OVER

Advertising Costs

Advertising costs for a listing in the 2017-2018 Harvest Drive E-Directory are as follows:

PLATINUM LEVEL - \$500

- 12 month listing (November - October)
- Featured listing on E-Directory Home Page
- Featured listing on Ad Category Page
- Link to your listing in the monthly electronic Family Newsletter (November - May)

GOLD LEVEL - \$300

- 6 month listing includes (November - April)
- Featured listing on Ad Category Page

BRONZE LEVEL - \$100

- 3 month listing (November - January)

Student Incentives

Student/Family Prizes will be awarded to those who go above and beyond! Prizes will be awarded to the top-five students with the highest sales and the top-five families with the highest sales. In addition, all students/families that **exceed** their quota by at least \$100 will be eligible to receive tuition credit or gift card incentives up to \$500.

All **prizes*** are listed on the Harvest Drive web page.

Top seller prizes are capped at \$5,000 and will be awarded in the form of tuition credit. If a student/family's account is paid in full, they will receive a credit to their tuition account, but may request a check from the tuition office for any overage.

All money must be received by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20 to qualify for student prizes. However, late money will be accepted for advertisement listings through October 31 and applied toward the student's quota. Late money **will not** be considered when determining student prizes.

*see disclaimer on PCHS website regarding ties and instances where the money raised is equal to or less than the prize value.

E-Directory

To purchase an advertisement listing, patrons must complete the Platinum, Gold or Bronze Level form online. It is imperative to follow all directions to ensure the listing appears correctly in the E-Directory. Online payments are preferred, however, checks payable to "PCHS" will also be accepted. No cash please. Ad listings will not be processed until payment is received.

Be sure to give businesses ample time for advertising authorization so they are able to purchase their advertisement by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20.

Ad listings will be posted on the PCHS website via the Harvest Drive E-Directory in early November. The listings will follow a new and improved format similar to other online directories (select link below for sample). Students may also sell ad listings to family and friends who would like to convey a personal message; these ads will be placed in the "Family/Happy Ads" category of the E-Directory.

[View Sample E-Directory on PCHS web](#)

RAFFLE PRIZES

Individuals who purchase raffle tickets will have the chance to win **GREAT PRIZES!** The raffle ticket drawing will take place on **Friday, September 22** at an all school assembly. **Winner need not be present.**

RAFFLE PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Grand Prize.....	\$10,000
1st Prize	\$2,000
2nd Prize	\$1,000
3rd-4th Prize	\$500
5th-8th Prize	\$200
9th-10th Prize	\$100





PROVIDENCE

Catholic High School

Junior IMEA Choral Audition Clinic

ATTENTION District 1 - 6th, 7th & 8th graders!

Let the PCHS Singing Celtics help prepare you for your big audition!

Register by September 17 for this FREE Clinic!



Register Online!

www.providencecatholic.org

During this clinic, the PCHS Choir Director will assist your outstanding Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass with all aspects of their upcoming audition. Students must bring their audition music and a pencil. Water bottles will be provided. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Stacy Eckert, Choir Director at 815.717.3321. seckert@providencecatholic.org

Tuesday, September 19

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enter Door #9



Eat Wings. Raise Funds.

Help raise money for your favorite non-profit organization.



All families and friends

are invited to participate in the benefit for:

Providence Catholic High School Music Dept.

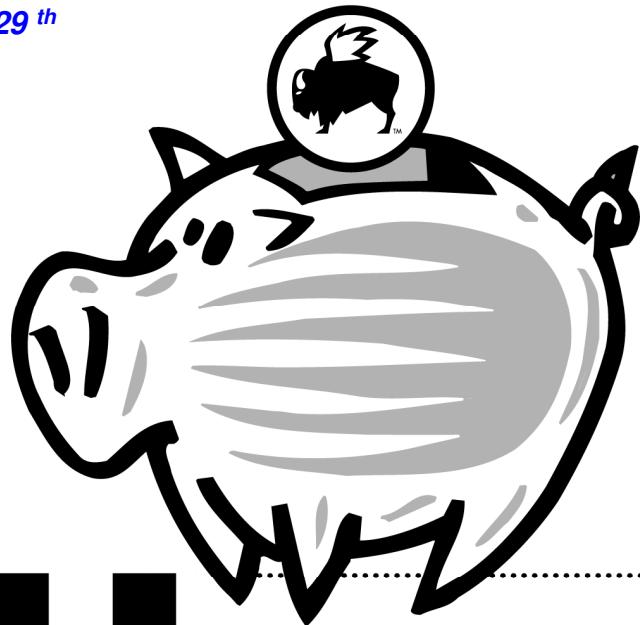
Wednesday September 27th & Friday September 29th

At Buffalo Wild Wings® (414 Nelson Rd.)

for lunch, dinner or a snack.

On these days, 15% of all food purchases
accompanied by the certificate below will
be donated to the

Providence Catholic High School Music Dept



Providence Catholic High School Music Dept.

WEDNESDAY September 27th & FRIDAY September 29th

Present this certificate to your cashier at the time of your
purchase and 15% of all food purchases* will go to support the

Providence Catholic High School Music Dept.

Only valid at 414 Nelson Rd., New Lenox, IL 60451

Alcohol & discounted item purchases not included.

