



Paw Prints



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PROVIDENCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S
PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION (PTSO)

A MOMENT TO PAWS...

BY DR. HARRILL

Dear PHS Parents and Families:

The first semester of this school year has gone smoothly; we are only a few weeks away from mid-term or final exams. We have continued to work hard with our students to make up for gaps in learning that occurred during the year we were on remote instruction or hybrid instruction. Our teachers have planned and are implementing targeted instruction. The targeted instruction is different for different students and different classes. For example, some of our students have larger gaps or “unfinished learning” in the skill of writing a solid, well-crafted paragraph. So, for those students, teachers have targeted where to start and what elements to include in their lesson plans that will help students learn this skill. This same process of identifying the gap, targeting the learning needs, teaching, and then assessing, is happening across our school and in individual cases. I’m proud of the progress our students continue to make. So many of them are working hard to follow the lessons provided by their teachers and that is being illustrated in their increased achievement. I’m sure you would be very proud to see what I see as I visit the classrooms each day.

Since the last issue of the *PawPrints*, we have received comparison data from our AP exams taken last spring. Despite the challenges we faced with schooling during the pandemic last year, **Providence had the highest Advanced Placement (AP) exam pass rate in CMS** and the surrounding counties. The next highest performing high school in CMS is approximately 10 percentage points behind us. This can be attributed to the hard work of our teachers and students. And, just think of the amount of money saved by parents who do not need to pay for those college classes! Seventy-eight percent of students scored a 3, 4, or 5 on their AP exam.

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This is not yet back up to the pre-COVID rate of 83% at Providence but it is higher than any other school around and we know we are on the right track to get back to where we were when we were in-person all year. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for setting the students up to be highly successful.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and thank you for helping us make our first semester a success. We will continue to stay focused on the plan to close the gaps of “unfinished learning” and appreciate your partnership as we do so. Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Dr. Harrill, Principal



AND ONE MORE PAWS...

FROM THE PTSO

**THE PHS COMMUNITY IS
BETTER TOGETHER**

Providence Parents, Students, Teachers and Staff:

As we move into the end of the year, I have been reflecting on the many things for which I am thankful, and several of the things on my list relate to Providence. I am thankful for the opportunity for our students to learn in person. I am thankful for the dedicated and hardworking teachers and staff who strive every day to provide an engaging, safe, supportive school environment for their students, all the while responding to the ever-changing demands and requirements of this challenging time. I am thankful for our school nurse, who is serving as a calm and caring guide through the complexities COVID-19 has brought to our school environment. I am thankful that clubs, the fine arts and sports have been able to gather, perform and compete (which you can see in the pages of this newsletter). I am thankful for the incredible support of the Providence community through donations to our IMPACT campaign, hours given to enhance our school, notes of appreciation written to teachers and staff, and so much more. Below are a few PTSO highlights from the year so far:

Staff Support has provided teachers with a back to school lunch, "Room Service" bags filled with each teacher's favorite snacks and drinks, Halloween treat bags, a Harvest Breakfast just before Thanksgiving break and a pizza and salad lunch in December. They have also planned a holiday luncheon to finish out the year and have several events already planned for 2022.

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Recently I served alongside the following PTSO General Board Members to provide lunch coverage for teachers during the last few weeks: Melanie Bradle, Marie Beavers, Kaysi Dixon, Sallie Fitton, Laura Fricano, Staci Mond, Monique Parker, Jenni Smith, Lee Sugg, Michelle Thiny, Megan Walsh and Dawn Weber. As you may know, based on restrictions on gatherings at school, teachers have not been able to take their usual lunch break since school began in August, and the PTSO is working to give our teachers this time back as often as possible. Thank you to all who gave their time!

We are continuing to plan for improvements to Providence Plaza, including purchasing sturdy umbrellas for the tables to provide shade when needed as well as developing a landscaping plan to implement in the spring. We are also beginning to put together the exciting new installation for for the Media Center hallway that celebrates the first three decades of Providence, with plans to expand for many years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has made these PTSO efforts possible through donations to the IMPACT Campaign. If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so before the end of the year to help ensure that we reach our 2021-2022 fundraising goal. You can make your donation at pay4schoolstuff.com. You may also choose to make a gift of stock by contacting our IMPACT Campaign Chair, Megan Walsh, at phscapitalcampaign@gmail.com

Thank you all for your continuing support of the PTSO and the Providence community!

Regards,
Jen Schubert
PTSO President, 2021-2022



GERMAN CLUB



The German Club has been busy over the last few months and we have a lot of fun events planned for the future! Our first big event of the year was Oktoberfest, a social event held in honor of the German Oktoberfest festival. We would like to thank the Breedlove family for hosting this event. We also participated in the Fight the Flame 5K. Club members got involved in the race as contestants and volunteers to help raise money for a good cause. We are also happy to say that we had a very successful German Week filled with fun events like the gummy bear guessing contest. We would like to congratulate Liv Knight and Alex Hooper for winning the club t-shirt design contest.

We are excited to say that we have a lot of activities planned to finish this semester strong! For the month of December, we are planning a holiday party. We are also excited that we will be able to continue our Nikolaustag tradition this year. Nikolaustag is a German holiday celebrated on December 6th where children are rewarded with candy and small presents. For our celebration we will ask all German students to leave a shoe at school over the weekend for us to fill with candy.

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GERMAN CLUB

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We are also hoping to revive our German Hour event. German Hour is a social event we plan to hold once a month for the rest of the year. As we move forward into 2022 we will be using German Hour to prepare for the upcoming German Day competition. We will be looking for hosts for this event in the coming months and would appreciate anyone who could volunteer their outdoor space. We are looking forward to all of these fun events! If you have any questions or want to host an event please contact faculty advisor Herr Hablutzel (deron.hablutzel@cms.k12.nc.us). Auf Wiedersehen!

(Written by Pete Walls, phwalls21@gmail.com, Club Advisor Herr Hablutzel, deron.hablutzel@cms.k12.nc.us)



CHOIR



Congratulations to Tara McGee, Trey Conder and Mike Wheeler for being selected for the 2021 NC HS Honors Chorus! They traveled to Winston-Salem and got to work with the top high school singers in NC and an exceptional conductor for the weekend before performing for the NCMEA Music Educator's convention. It is a huge honor to be selected for this choir and we are so proud of these students!



MARCHING BAND

The Pride of Providence Marching Band had a successful “comeback” season! In “CheckMate”, the football field transformed into a chess board with intense choreography to Robert W. Smith’s “Inferno”, “Royals” by Lorde, Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 7”, and “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen, featuring a trombone trio by Joseph Chen, Henry Cole, and Brad Thompson and a flugelhorn solo by Henry Kurtz.

On September 17, the band had the unique opportunity of performing at Memorial Stadium as Providence High School hosted Charlotte Catholic in the Big Friday High School Football game sponsored by the Carolina Panthers.

We started competition season with a double feature: performing in the early afternoon of September 25 at Mt. Pleasant High School and at Hickory Ridge High School in the evening. At Mt. Pleasant, the Pride placed 1st Place in Class: Music, 2nd Place in Class: Marching, General Effect, Overall, and 3rd Place Overall for the day. At Hickory Ridge, the Pride swept their class in all categories and placed 2nd overall for the day.

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MARCHING BAND

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October was a very busy month. On October 9, the Pride travelled to Rock Hill to perform at Band Beat 2021, where they were awarded 2nd place in their class, after playing in the stands for a Homecoming football game win over Independence High School the night before. On October 15, we both honored our seniors and welcomed 8th graders from our feeder schools to join our band in the stands. On October 16, the Pride headed to Mooresville High School, where they again swept their class in competition.

The Pride of Providence was delighted to bring back Providence Cup on October 23. Sixteen NC and SC bands, as well as the Pride of Providence, performed for a panel of judges from across the country. Though almost all bands are smaller this year, we had more spectators in attendance than at our last competition in 2019. Thank you to all the Providence volunteers who helped make the day a success!

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MARCHING BAND

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The Pride would also like to thank our seniors for their dedication, leadership, and performance: Taegan Anderson (Drum Major), Iksha Anil (Color Guard), Anthony Bae (Clarinet), Bella Enciso (Color Guard), Ryan Epperson (Percussion Captain), Charlotte Johnson-Post (Color Guard Captain), Kayla Harrill (Band President, Color Guard), Henry Kurtz (Trumpet, Brass Captain), Atzi Marquez (Alto Saxophone), Josh Metzl (Mellophone), Caleb Rutledge (Percussion, Vice President-Operations), and Brad Thomson (trombone).

We would also like to recognize our other members of the Student Leadership Team for their service thus far this year: Nathalia Berenguer-Brocard, Ava Castillo, Leah Castillo, Trey Condor, Peder Hinson, Abbey Kritzer, Matthew Marshall, and Wesley Meador.



THEATRE

With students and teachers back at school, everyone appreciates the opportunity to rehearse and put together a diverse slate of theatrical performances for the 2021-2022 season.

RADIUM GIRLS AND TRACKS

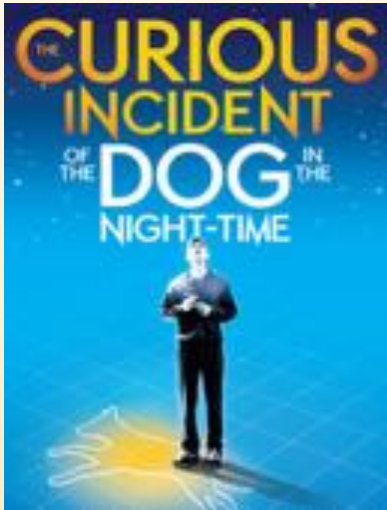
This year, the Providence High School Theatre Department presented two plays at the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC), *Radium Girls* and *Tracks*, which were previewed for parents and students on October 28. Several students and our theatre teacher were recognized for their achievements including:

- Excellence in Design and Production: Ethan Hill for *Radium Girls* and Vineeth Ramdas for *Tracks*
- Outstanding Achievement in Design and Production: Morgan Maxwell for *Radium Girls*
- Judges Choice "Excellence in Characterization": The Cast of *Tracks*
- Excellence in Ensemble Acting: The Cast of *Tracks*
- Excellence in Acting: Mia Spies for *Radium Girls*
- Outstanding Achievement in Ensemble: The Cast of *Radium Girls*
- Excellence in Directing: Mrs. Jacqueline Altmeyer, PHS Theatre Teacher, for *Radium Girls & Tracks*

Congratulations to the casts and crew!



THEATRE



CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME

Just before Thanksgiving, PHS premiered the Olivier and Tony Award winning play, the *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

In this play, “fifteen-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain. He is exceptional at math, while everyday life presents some barriers. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road; he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. When he falls under suspicion for killing his neighbor’s dog, it takes him on a journey that upturns his world.”

Our students began rehearsals for this play in September. Unique to PHS, the play was presented “in the round,” meaning seats surrounded the actors and no one is ever “off-stage.”

Students rehearse the play outside, taking advantage of the warm weather.



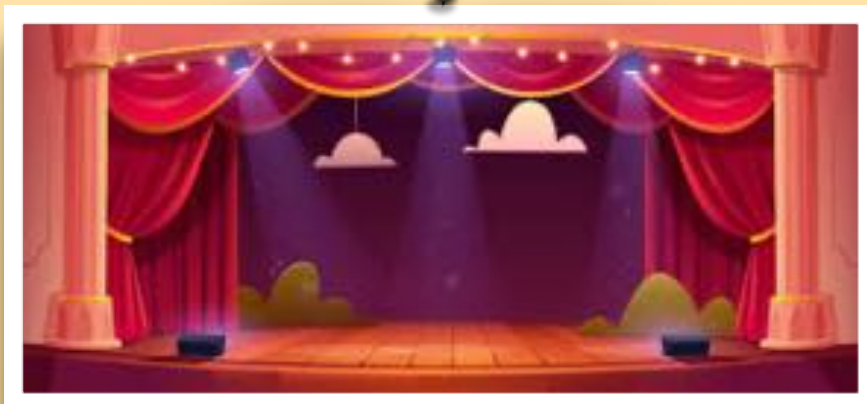
“I chose this play because it has a great story and as I read the story it really spoke to me. [In addition,] I got excited to direct this piece in the arena setting, as though we are inside Christopher’s mind. The journey of this kid is inspiring, and I believe everyone that watches this show will come out of the theatre with a little more perspective on life and understand other peoples’ lives.” -- Richard Turski, Director and PHS Technical Theatre Arts Teacher

THEATER

COMING SOON: MAMA MIA!



"We are so excited to begin our Spring Musical, Mamma Mia! As I have talked to the company, we are going to have fun. The music of ABBA will have the entire audience singing along and enjoying the evening with amazing dance numbers. Our entire creative team is beyond enthusiastic to begin what will surely be a musical to remember." –Jacqueline Altmeyer, Director and PHS Theatre Arts Teacher



ORCHESTRA

Mr. Vergato, PHS Orchestra director, led the PHS Orchestras and Guitar Ensemble as they helped kick off the holiday season in musical style.

The Guitar Ensemble performance included “Dona Nobis Pacem” (which means “Give Us Peace” in Latin), and a rendition of Elvis Presley’s “Blue Christmas.” The Symphonic Orchestra opened with Edvard Grieg’s “Prelude to the Holberg Suite” and continued with a variety of holiday pieces including a medley of carols called “A Christmas Portrait” and a rocking arrangement of “Carol of the Bells”. The Chamber Orchestra performance included classical pieces by well-known composers such as Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” Holst’s “In The Bleak Midwinter,” and Mozart’s Finale of Symphony No. 15. Concertmaster Sophia Kuncoro impressed the audience when she performed the violin solo from the first movement of Vivaldi’s “Winter,” from The Four Seasons.

Please join us on December 14 at 6:30 pm for the next Orchestra and Guitar concert at Providence High School.

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ORCHESTRA



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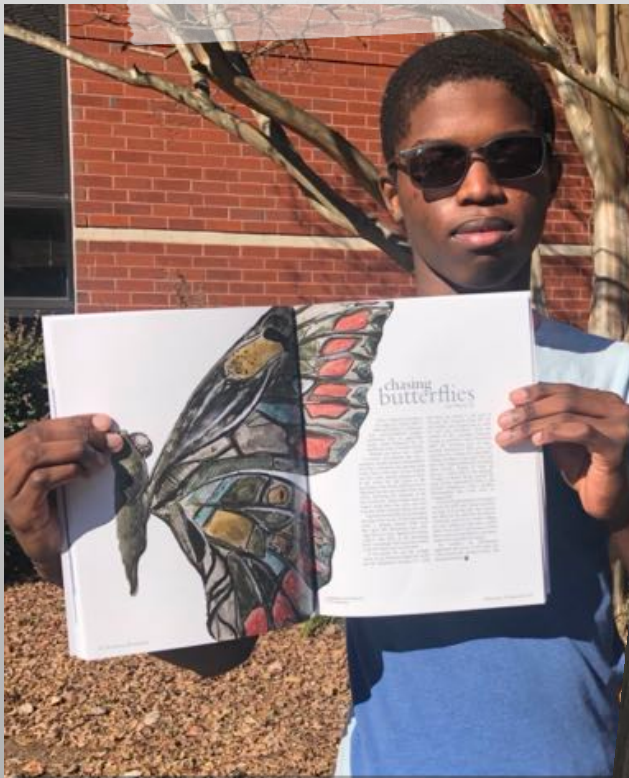
LITERARY MAGAZINE

Roars and Whispers was recently celebrated with two national design awards from the National Scholastic Press Association.

Congratulations to Jonathan Obele (junior, pictured) and Aiden Kaplan (graduate), who won Second Place in Literary Magazine Spread Design.

Claire Shi, senior, also won Fifth Place for her Magazine Cover Design.

NSPA recognized the winners of its 2021 Design of the Year Competition during the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention on November 11, 2021.



WOMEN'S TENNIS



Providence Varsity Women's Tennis closed out the fall season with great success and an eye toward the future. Our conference changed this year and we went up against some tough competition.

Morgan Ketzner (Senior) and Jennifer Fan (Junior) both represented us well in the singles conference matches. Line 2 doubles Lauren Schwartz (Senior)/Gaby Hively (Sophomore), and line 3 doubles Lauren Bellardini (Senior)/Masha Miller (Freshman) qualified for the conference matches and went on to compete in the Southwestern 4A regional tournament.

We had some amazing accomplishments this year, and can't wait to see the team grow in the seasons ahead. We have a talented group of underclassman and know they will represent us well into the future.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



Congratulations to the 2021 Panthers Women's Varsity Volleyball Team!

Under Coach Maggie Malone and Coach Clarke Leighton the team notched an undefeated conference season, clinching the top spot in the SW 4A Conference. With a 27-2 record, the Panthers ended the season in the state quarterfinals. Seniors Katie Cruise and Gabby LaPata and junior Ava Leahy were named to the NCVBCA All-Region team.



MEN'S SOCCER



The Men's Soccer Team had a successful season with a record of 18-2-2, making round 4 in the playoffs where they lost 3-2. Before the playoffs, they ranked #2 in the state. They ended the season ranked #7 in the state and #36 nationally. Way to go team!



MEN'S FOOTBALL



The Providence Football team finished their 2021 Fall Season with a record of 6-5; led by our 5 Captains: Jamar Price, John Balas, Sam Decker, Lukas Dendrolivanos, and Connor Drake. What you should truly consider is that Providence football played 2 seasons in the calendar year 2021 and their overall 2021 record was an outstanding 13-7. Due to COVID, the North Carolina Fall 2020 football season was played in Spring 2021. Our Panthers finished the season with a 7-2 record.

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MEN'S FOOTBALL

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What these young men did in 7 months is astonishing. Normally the Panthers would finish their Fall season and then go through an extensive off season workout regime of weight lifting, conditioning, and position refining, but not the transition season from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021. They played their last spring game on April 23rd and then four months later, August 20th, played their first Fall 2021 game. In the life of a football player, 4 months is one night in regards to preparing for a new season and an entirely new Conference.

The Panthers didn't let this short off season or unknown opponents deter them, instead they put in the hard work and came out ready to prove to themselves and others that they are a program that deserves to be respected.



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MEN'S FOOTBALL

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MEN'S FOOTBALL



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One game this team will always remember is playing at Memorial Stadium under the big lights and the skyline of the Charlotte. Although the game didn't end as desired, they played hard and were able to showcase their talents.

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MEN'S FOOTBALL

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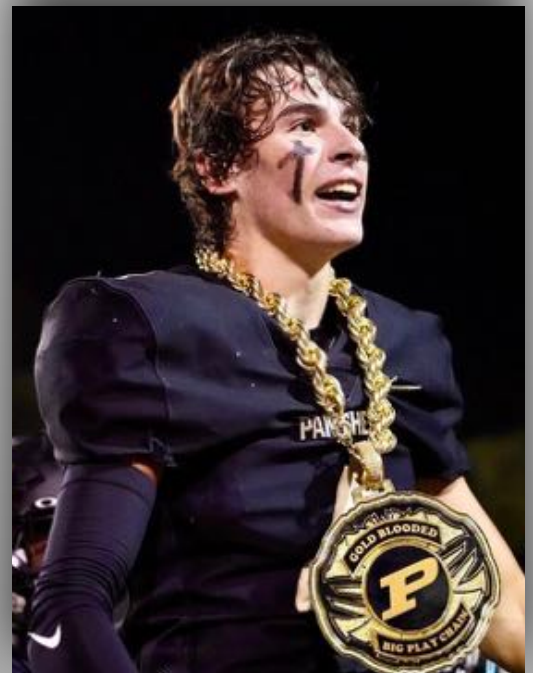
This team is composed of 20 Seniors (essentially 1/3 of the entire team). They perform on the field, but they also perform in the classroom, as leaders in student body and clubs, contributors on other sports teams, and the list goes on and on. The accomplishments of this team are endless. We are honored to have 9 of our players recognized by our Conference for All-Conference honors:

Offense – Jamar Price (RB), Luke Bailey (WR), Anthony Tandoh (WR), Cash Topinka (OL), Connor Drake (OL)

Defense – John Balas (OLB), Dewayne Gissendanner II (DB), Sam Decker (MLB), Luke Gullickson (DE)

But there is more, the Charlotte Touchdown Club recently announced that Sam Decker was named as the 2021 Michael A. Kahn High School Community Service Scholastics Scholarship Recipient. This honor is bestowed on only one defensive Senior each year and comes with a \$40,000 scholarship to be divided amongst 4 years.

We are happy to cheer this team on Friday nights, but we are more happy to cheer them on in life as they continue to make differences in their families, their communities, and to make the world a better place.



YOUR PTSO AT WORK!

Very recently, students may have wondered where some of their teachers have gone during lunch. The answer: most likely they have gone to the TEACHER LOUNGE for a much-needed break! As the state has required, students are supposed to spread out during lunch, and thus they cannot all be in the cafeteria. This means that teachers have had to stay in classrooms with some of their students during lunch. The teachers have missed the camaraderie of hanging out with each other in the teacher lounge, and also relaxing and mentally preparing for the rest of the day. ENTER parent volunteers! The PTSO Board is currently “beta testing” this volunteer lunch monitor program, with the hopes of including other parent volunteers in the future.



Do you recognize this masked parent? Here she is posing with Frau Humphrey as German students treat them to a photo bomb before Frau takes a short “Mittagspause.”



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A HUGE IMPACT!

THANK YOU TO THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR THIS YEAR TO THE IMPACT CAMPAIGN, P.T.S.O.'S MAIN FUNDRAISER. MONEY RAISED THROUGH YOUR DONATION ALLOWS US TO SUPPORT OUR PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY THROUGH CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS, STAFF SUPPORT UPGRADES TO EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES, AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS, AMONG OTHER EFFORTS.

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SILVER LEVEL \$100+

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1800 PINEVILLE MATTHEWS ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28270**

DR. TRACEY HARRILL, PRINCIPAL

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**PAW PRINTS IS PUBLISHED FOUR
TIMES A YEAR FOR STUDENTS,
TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, AND
FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL.**

**MARIE BEAVERS, EDITOR
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