

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES



Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax VA 22031

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www.providencenurseryschool.com

A LETTER FROM ROBIN

Welcome back and welcome to a New Year! I hope you all had a nice break. The Tingley family had a nice and relaxing time staying in town and enjoying a delicious holiday dinner with the Tingley Grandparents and a short but fun visit from the Kelley Grandparents (who live in North Carolina).

Registration kicks off the New Year at PNS. Be alert that in-house registration forms are due to Mary McLaughlin (VP/Membership Enrollment and Mom to Steven Farzan in the 4s class) by Friday, January 9, 2009.

Although we try to accommodate your first choice in class selection, attention must be paid to class size, gender composition, and teacher recommendations. Please be patient as we complete this process.

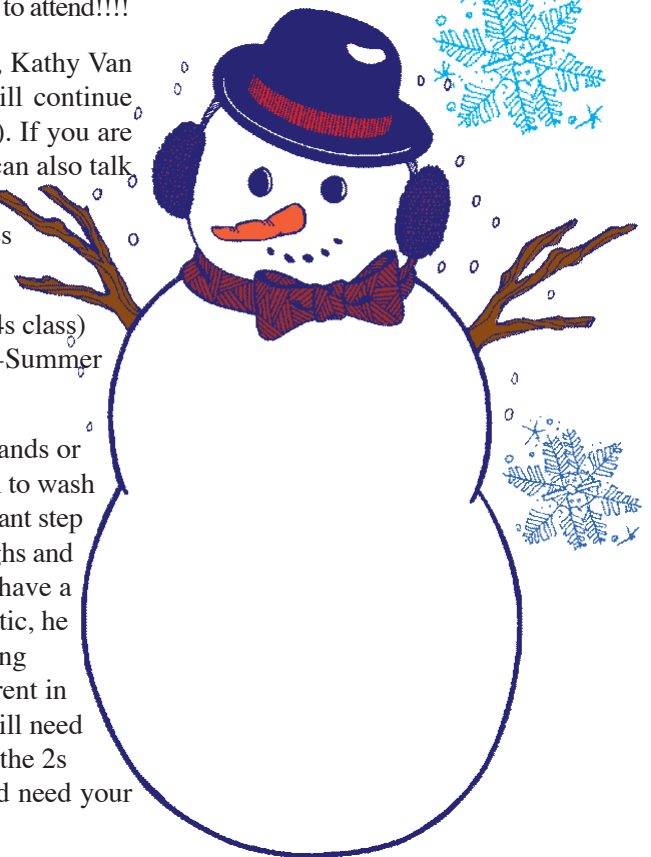
We will send out new rosters to parents by mid to late February. Our Open House for NEW students interested in our school will take place Wednesday, January 21st (10AM to NOON) while school is in session. PLEASE encourage any interested friends to attend!!!!

At the December board meeting a nominating committee (Karen Wallace, Kathy Van Dyke, Christine Clifford and Jenn Lyon) was formed and this month will continue to look for volunteers to be on the 2009/2010 Executive Board (E-Board). If you are interested in any position, please talk to someone on the committee. You can also talk to any member of the E-Board. It's a great opportunity to meet new parents, make decisions for our school, and be more involved before you child goes off to kindergarten.

Kathy & I are happy to announce that Karen Wallace (Mom to Ian in the 3/4s class) and Kristin Merten (Mom to Ryan in 3/4s and Adam in 2s) will be our Co-Summer Camp Directors. Summer camp flyers will be coming out next month!

Cold and Flu season is upon us. Please don't forget to wash your child's hands or use hand sanitizer before dropping them off at school. Encouraging children to wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds is an important step towards the spread of germs. Please teach your children to "catch" their coughs and sneezes in a tissue or in their elbow. Also please keep children home who have a fever, persistent cough or runny nose. If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, he must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school. Co-oping parents who are sick should stay home and rest and please call another parent in your class to switch days. If you have called all parents in your class and still need a substitute you can call Robin, Kathy or Shefali Sardar (Mom to Sahil in the 2s class) for assistance. We are watching out for all the school's children and need your cooperation to keep our school as healthy as possible.

— Robin Tingley & Kathy VanDyke
Co-Presidents (2008/2009)



CDO and Twos with Mrs. B

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome back to school! I hope your winter break was filled with many special moments and memories of your children that you have tucked away. After all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I am ready for the calm of the winter. Of course, here at PNS, the pace never slows, so we'll jump right in to the New Year with all kinds of activities and some of my favorite themes.

During the first week back to school, we will transform PNS into a winter wonderland. Mrs. B loves winter and snow (I lived in Boston for 7 years). Lots of great songs and books will accompany this theme. We'll read Jan Brett's, *The Hat* and *The Jacket I wear in the Snow* by Shirly Neitzel. Decorating snowflakes, ice cube painting, and mitten fold-overs

will be some of our art activities. Of course we'll also plough shaving cream covered roads and paint snow scenes with Epsom salts. So LET IT SNOW!

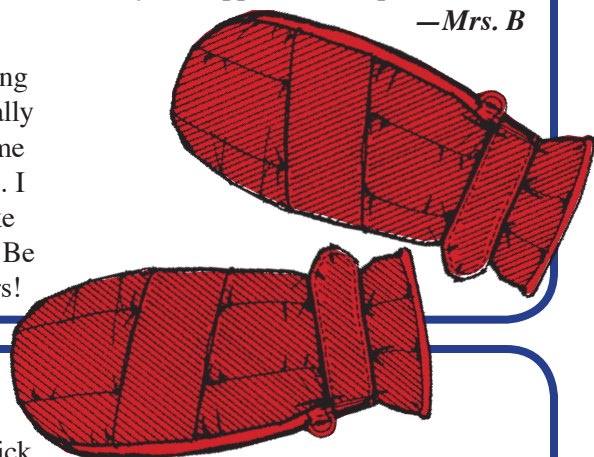
We'll study our teeth during the week of January 12th. We'll talk about visiting the dentist and how brushing helps keep our smile white and beautiful. We'll pretend to be dentists as we take cavities out of play dough teeth. We'll paint with toothpaste and compare the size of an elephants teeth with our own. Obie is excited to show us his toothbrush.

AND THEN...dinosaurs will be roaming around PNS for two weeks. This is usually a very popular theme. We'll follow some dino prints to a nest with very big eggs. I wonder what might hatch... We'll make prehistoric headbands and paint rocks. Be prepared to hear lots of dino-sized roars!

We didn't get out much in December, but when weather permits, we will be venturing outside. Send in hats, mittens and winter coats each day. Also, please label your child's belongings. While we are relatively certain of what belongs to whom, mistakes are made when things are not labeled.

I can't believe we are already just about to the halfway point of the school year. Parents, I can't thank you enough for all of your support and help.

—Mrs. B



Threes Class with Miss Susan

The dust and all that glitter have finally settled and I hope everyone has had a fulfilling and relaxing holiday because now it's time for the crazy month of January!

During our first week back, we'll engage in some Wintery Fun. I hope the weather cooperates, but even if it does not we will have ice and "snow" inside. A visit from our favorite puppeteers, KayDee Puppets is planned for our Wednesday enrichment activity on the 7th.

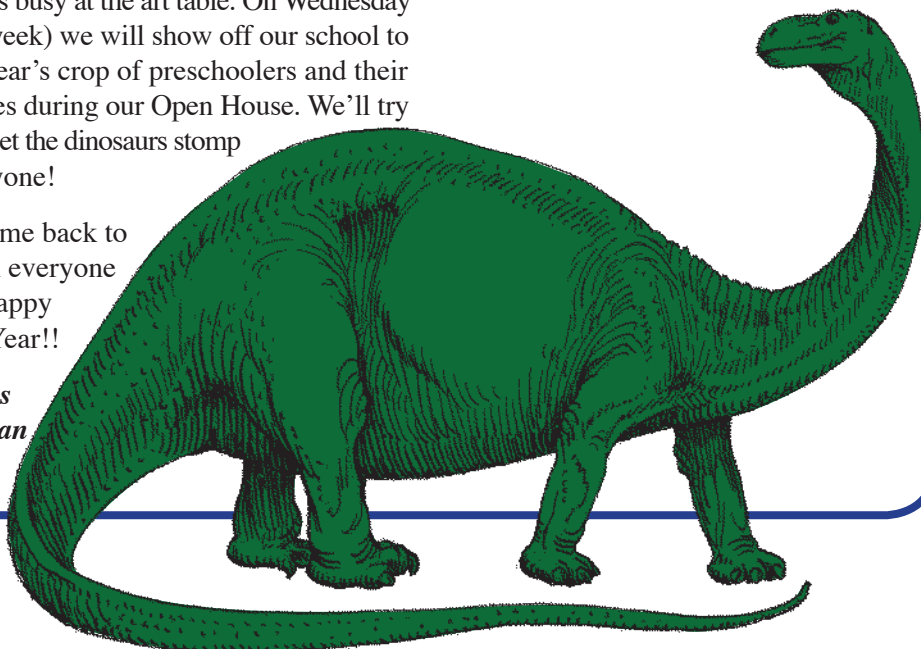
Next up is Dental Health week. Our first field trip of the year is to a dentist's office on Friday the 16th. We'll get to sit in the special chair and practice brushing some really big teeth. Wednesday of that week (the 14th) parent-teacher conferences will take place. We'll have fifteen uninterrupted minutes to talk about your child's accomplishments and goals at school. I will put a sign-up sheet near

the daily sign-in clipboard so you can pick a convenient time to come in. If you can't make it that day, we'll arrange another time.

For the next two weeks DINOSAURS will rule the school. We will have a dinosaur habitat in the Big Room for all of our prehistoric creatures to play in. Rock painting, egg rolling and dino sponge prints will keep us busy at the art table. On Wednesday (this week) we will show off our school to next year's crop of preschoolers and their families during our Open House. We'll try not to let the dinosaurs stomp on anyone!

Welcome back to school everyone and Happy New Year!!

—Miss Susan



Three/Fours Class with Mrs. Millward

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope all the 3/4s and their families had a memorable, restful break and that everyone's special wishes came true! Now that winter has settled in around us it's time to get back to school. My planbook is full of ideas to help us beat the winter blues. During the first week of school, we will have lots of winter excitement as each child discovers what makes winter so unique...and FUN! We will also have the opportunity to create some pretty cool "snowy" art. (I hope you like glitter!) The next week will be filled with talk about our five senses we'll do some fingerpainting and create art using an "old fashioned" record player. We will touch, sniff, listen, look, and even taste things during our circle times. We'll also talk about dental health and how to talk care of our teeth. (After all, I am the daughter of a dentist!) We'll smile a lot too! Finally, during the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! We will don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to painting our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high.

There are several dates that need to be written on your calendar. Conferences will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, January 14th and 15th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for 15 minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. I will have a sign-up sheet on our table for you to choose a conference time. Remember that there is no school on the 19th, 20th, 26th, and 27th...all FCPS holidays. We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 21st. The PNS Open House will be going on around us, but we will have a regular school day. We will also have a Wonderful Wednesday on January 7th... the Kaydee Puppets will be with us for two stories. What chilly fun!

When you co-op this month, you will notice several classroom management changes. The sign-in board shapes now have the children's names on them. The students will begin to recognize the basic shape of their name using both large and small case letters. Soon the shapes will "disappear" all together and just the names will remain on the hooks. I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time first thing in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the cabinet!) instead of me

making the choice for them. They will take the toy to play...and then return it to the cabinet themselves before making another choice. It is one more way for this group to become more independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of each of them! Children can get frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/or herself when leaving home. Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!!!

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters W(1/5) and I(1/12). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are terrific! And they are having lots of FUN doing it!

WOW...what a month! As usual, if anyone has any concerns or questions concerning your child, please don't hesitate to call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is! Stay tuned...

—Jane Millward

Fours Class with Ms. Judy

O.K. you all must know by now how much I enjoy the heat and sun—so getting your children and myself excited about January's winter activities becomes a real challenge. The thoughts of beautiful snowflakes, snowmen and sipping hot chocolate can warm the heart and soul even in the cruelest throws of winter. If we actually do get some of that wet, fluffy, white stuff it really will be fun to watch my little ones play outdoors. If that doesn't happen, we will still feel oh so cold—playing with ice cubes. Come on! I'm really trying here! Frosty the Snowman and snowpeople craft activi-

ties will keep our hats from blowing away in the wind as we explore our study unit on Wintery Fun.

Wake up your senses as we test out smells, tastes and touch the week of January 12th through 16th. Conferences this month will be on Tuesday January 13th. A sign up sheet will be posted.

During this week, we will also study Dental Health. We will learn some new brushing songs and have fun painting with a toothbrush.

We will close the month of January with

the much loved unit on Dinosaurs. We will become Big and Brawny and Roar really loud into "The Land before Time Began".

Spread the news that our Open-house and sign-up for the coming fall is on January 21st .

I wish everyone in the Providence family a Happy and Healthy New Year.

—Judy Goldstein



SCHOOL NOTICES

REGISTRATION

January 9, 2009

Registration forms are due for returning families

Open House

January 21, 2009

10:00am to 12:00 noon

Enrollment for new PNS families begins. If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in our preschool for next year, please invite them to stop by.

E-mail Mary McLaughlin at Marydmcl@cox.net with any questions or concerns.

—*Mary McLaughlin, VP of Enrollment*

PNS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009/2010

Dear PNS Families,

The nominating committee is now accepting submissions of names for next years Executive Board. This is a great way to learn the inside-out of how the school is run and to help shape school policy. All parents are welcome to submit their names, be they moms or dads, people new to the school or veterans. As an incentive to take this job, the materials fee for your oldest child in the school is waived, as is the requirement for 8 volunteer hours. The office of president has one additional incentive—see Robin or Kathy for details.

For the office of president, we would consider either one person to take the job by him or herself, or two people to split the job. The same holds true for fundraising chair.

We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Additionally, the current office holders will be happy to discuss their positions in more detail.

—*The Nominating Committee*
Kathy Van Dyke, Karen Wallace, Jenn Lyon and Christine Clifford

YOGA

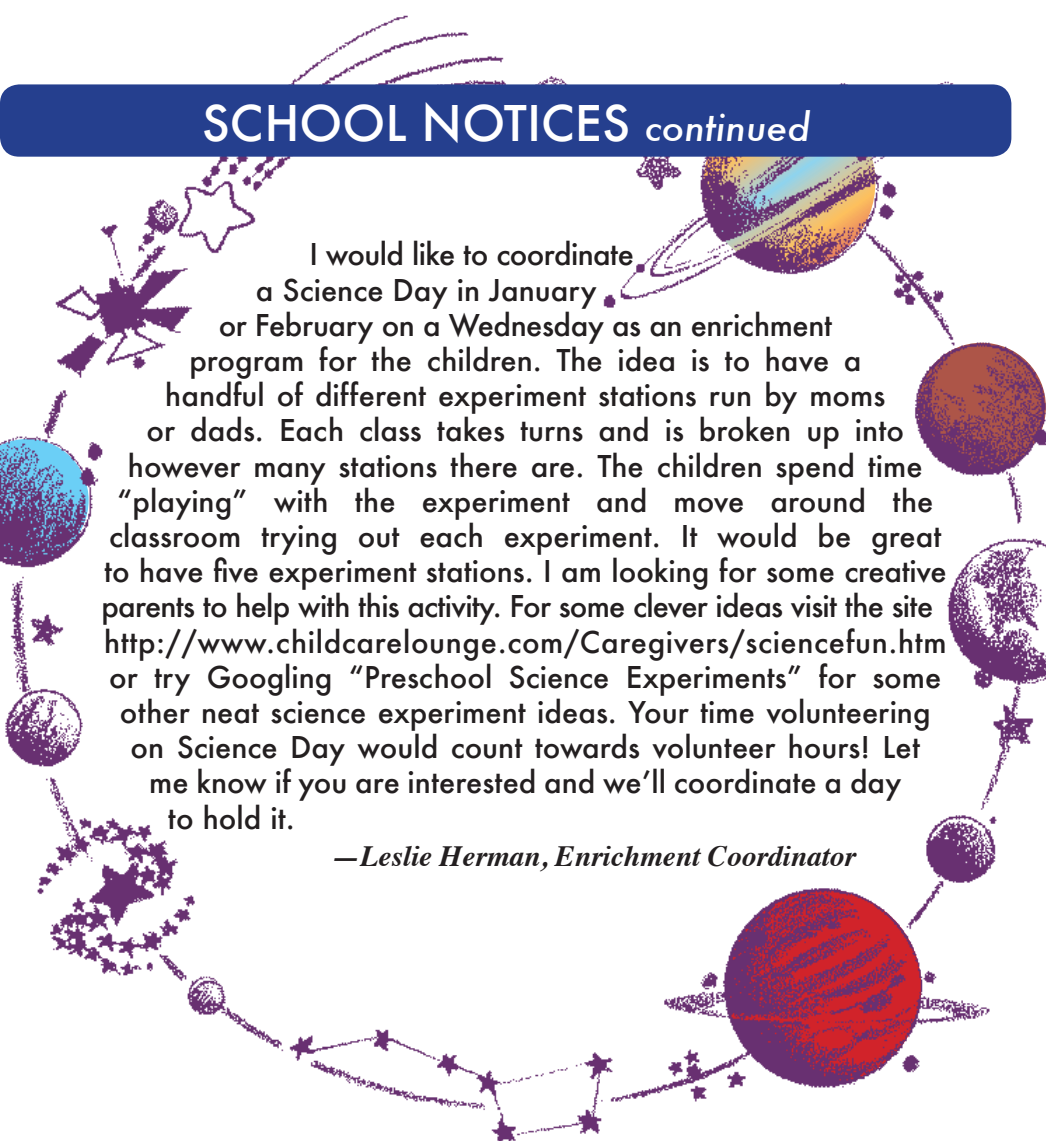


If you would like your child to participate in our 10 week yoga program on Wednesdays, from 1:45–2:15pm beginning January 14th, please let me know as soon as possible. I need to have your payment and registration form in hand no later than January 7th. If you need another form, please let me know and I will e-mail you one.

Thank you very much and Happy Holidays!

—*Kathy VanDyke, Co-President*

SCHOOL NOTICES *continued*



I would like to coordinate a Science Day in January or February on a Wednesday as an enrichment program for the children. The idea is to have a handful of different experiment stations run by moms or dads. Each class takes turns and is broken up into however many stations there are. The children spend time "playing" with the experiment and move around the classroom trying out each experiment. It would be great to have five experiment stations. I am looking for some creative parents to help with this activity. For some clever ideas visit the site <http://www.childcarelounge.com/Caregivers/sciencefun.htm> or try Googling "Preschool Science Experiments" for some other neat science experiment ideas. Your time volunteering on Science Day would count towards volunteer hours! Let me know if you are interested and we'll coordinate a day to hold it.

—Leslie Herman, Enrichment Coordinator

On February 6th we are holding a family potluck dinner at PNS (more info to follow). During dinner, we would like to showcase some of the great PNS photos that have been taken this year in a slideshow. The photos can be from field trips, events, or co-op days.

I know many of you have photos you would like to share. I have created a special album on my Mac MobileMe online gallery. I am the only person with access to view the album, however you can add photos by sending them to: tslink08-3qzh@post.me.com.

Please ONLY use the email address above. You will have until January 15th to submit photos and then I will remove them from my online gallery and begin creating the slideshow.

Please contact me with any questions.

—Tiffany Link, Social Committee

The Holiday Tree Project Thank You!!

A big thank you to the families of PNS who participated in the Holiday Tree project. Because of your generosity, three families enjoyed a holiday made festive with presents and giftcards.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the food drive.

Richard and I brought up countless bags of food to the pantry upstairs. In case you missed the food drive, or would like to donate again, Providence's food closet is always accepting donations.

Thanks again. Happy New Year.

—Kati Hesford, 4s Class Rep

A BIG PNS THANK YOU TO...

...Kati Hesford for organizing our Thanksgiving food drive & holiday giving project.

...Miranda Weeks and Janet Armiyar for making our school picture day run so smoothly.

...Audrey Nelson, Chrissy The, Jacquie Nguyen, & Tiffany Link for organizing our wonderful holiday shop, as well as Alice Kumar, Carol Ogletree, Jewoon Kim, Kristin Merten, Michelle Danis, Kara LaPenna and Kate Beddall for serving as "elves".

...The whole Millward family for graciously offering their house for our holiday party.

...Kate Beddall for coordinating the invitations and RSVPs and for coordinating our speech screenings.

...Kathleen Juster for our wonderful valances.

...Jenn Lyon for our new PNS flyers.

...Mary Handlon for donating new balls to use in the gym.

...and a BIG Thanks to the church for the use of the new gym!!!



JANUARY 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5	6	7 VCPC Teacher Luncheon KayDee Puppets at 11:30am WINTERY FUN	8	9 In-House Registration Ends	10 Maintenance Day 8:30am- 12:30pm
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30PM	13 4s Teacher Conferences	14 3s & 3/4s Teacher Conferences	15 3/4s Teacher Conferences	16	17
18	19 FCPS Holiday NO SCHOOL	20 FCPS Holiday NO SCHOOL	21 PNS OPEN HOUSE 10:00am-12:00pm DINOSAURS	22	23	24
25	26 FCPS Holiday NO SCHOOL	27 FCPS Holiday NO SCHOOL	28 DINOSAURS	29	30	31

January 7-11:30am

Kaydee Puppets—will present *The Princess & the Pea* and *The Little Red Hen's Wacky Week* in the fellowship hall. 2's, CDO's and siblings are welcome with a parent/guardian.