



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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The Providence Pages

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2010

A Letter from Jennifer...

I am writing this month's letter with mixed emotions. I am happy to be returning to Seattle to be with our families again after many years of being away, but I am also so sad to be saying goodbye to the PNS family that has supported me for the past several years.

Three years ago my son Max joined PNS in Miss Susan's class. I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful transition for him. He then went on to Mrs. Millward who prepared him for Kindergarten to the point that to this day he says to me we already did that in Mrs. Millward's class. Then I had the pleasure to work with Miss Judy all last year as her lunch bunch aide, learning just how fantastic our 4s teacher is. Finally, this year my daughter Sara has had Mrs. B. and I cannot say thank you enough for giving her such a great first experience with school. Both my children and myself will forever remember the teachers, the aides and the friends that we have made at PNS.

It has been quite a busy year here at PNS and for the outgoing board I can't thank you enough. This has been a big year for the board, and we've accomplished so much. You ladies have worked so hard giving your time, energy and skills. I must take a moment and recognize those who will not be returning to next year's board. Here is to you Karen Wallace, Kristin Merten, Kyle Durbin, Helen Burvis and Liz Claeys. PNS and I appreciate all that you have given to the school over the past few years.

April is always a month of transition here at Providence Nursery School and with that comes the welcome of our new Executive Board. Congratulations to the 2010-2011 members, Marta Davis & Ann-Marie Ward as Co-Presidents, Kelly Volciak as

VP Admin, Angie VonAcken as VP of Forms, Jennifer Remsburg as VP of Enrollment, Tiffany Link coming back as Treasurer, Ryan Bianchetti as the new Assistant Treasurer, Katharine McKenny taking on Secretary again and to Christine Clifford and Prassu Mehta for Co-Chairs on Fundraising. Please offer each of them your thanks and support. The hard work and dedication of the board keeps the school running. Their willingness to give time, energy and heart to these important jobs at PNS gives us all the wonderful school our kids love.

The April 12th Board meeting will be held at 7:30 and as always, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. As the first meeting with the new board, this is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and bring up any thoughts you have for the coming year.

Another important meeting is also on the horizon. Mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on May 3. This is a required meeting for all new and returning parents.

As I write my last President's Letter, I want to thank each and every parent for their participation and dedication to PNS over the last year. Your contribution is so critical to the success of our co-op, and every year we do more and enrich the experience for our children. We're all part of this school and it is wonderful to see our kids benefit. Thank you.

I will miss PNS. The school, the teachers, the parents, the kids, they have all been a fixture in my life for the past year as President.

—Jennifer Lyon



COMING UP...

Spring Coffee
 Mon., May 3rd
 7:30 PM

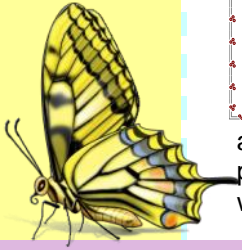
Mandatory attendance for new and returning families

This month:

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sign-up sheets will be posted soon.

I want to thank each and every family for helping make my job easier this year - because of your cooperation and willingness to go 'above and beyond', I was able to easily find volunteers for lunch bunch, Soccer, Yoga, etc. etc. - even when asked to do so at the very last minute. It has been my privilege to serve as the VP Administration at PNS for these past two years. —Karen Wallace



CDO & 2s

I want to put in a plug for messy activities. Finger painting, playing with shaving cream, and drawing shapes in pudding are

all great activities for sensory development and promote the hand strength the kids will need to write their letters later. Please make time and space for kids to be kids and to get messy.

The third week of April brings us to butterflies! We'll be busy at the art table making caterpillars with empty egg cartons and butterfly fold overs. Of course we'll read the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

We'll end the month by studying birds. We'll lace cheerios to make some treats for the birds. We'll also make feathered headbands and practice our scissors skills while feathering paper.

I'm looking forward to chatting with you about your beautiful children during our spring conferences, which are scheduled for April 22nd in the 2s class and for April 19th and 23th in CDO. Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet during the first week of April.

—Weekly Themes—

- 4/5: What's Under Ground?
- 4/12: Plants
- 4/19: Butterflies
- 4/26: Birds & Blue

With that in mind, we'll begin April by talking about what you can find under the ground. We will learn about worms, roots, turnips and carrots. This will be a fun but messy week as we make our own mud and dig outside to see what we can find.

Then we'll focus on spring up from the ground-plants. If weather allows, we'll take a walk along our nature trail to look for signs of spring. We'll also make some smashed flower art. This week we'll be gardening at the sensory table as well as planting our own seeds and (hopefully) watching them grow.

Mark your calendars—you are invited to join us for a special Mother's Day brunch on May 6th in the 2s class and on May 7th in CDO.



—Mrs. B

3s

Yea!!! Spring is finally here. It's getting nice outside and everyone's in a good mood! We've got lots of outdoorsy things to do this month, as well as fun things for indoors, too.

The second week of the month is a short one with no school on Monday, the 12th. We will talk about our teeth and ways to keep them healthy. Then on Friday, the 16th we will go on a field trip to a Dentist's office to see what happens there. It will be a fun visit with all of our friends along in a no-pressure situation and maybe this will prevent some anxiety later on when it's time to go individually.

then let them go. We may try our hands at hatching some ladybugs this year in addition to our annual butterfly project. Of course, the birds will be busy catching the bugs, so we'll check out our feathered friends on a nature walk. We will become pros at identifying some of our favorite backyard birds and set up a bird feeder near the playground.

We should get lots of bike riding and truck pushing time outside and maybe have a few "picnic" snacks if the weather permits.

Show and Tell has been very popular. Everyone has done a great job demonstrating and talking about what they brought in and the audience pays attention and has good questions and comments. It's a success!!

Wednesday and Friday, April 21st and 23rd are the dates for our second parent/teacher conferences. We can compare our notes from the last conferences and see how fast they're growing up. I'll get the sign up sheet out soon so you can mark your calendars. Take a deep breath and enjoy the spring weather!!

—Miss Susan

—Weekly Themes—

- 4/5: Spring
- 4/12: Spring
- 4/19: Spring
- 4/26: (more) Spring

The other three weeks of April will be devoted to all things Spring. We'll decorate some

flowers and check out plant life cycles. Beans will be sprouting on the window sills and then travel home to be planted outdoors when it's warm enough. We will pretend to be seeds down in the dirt and "wake up" when we feel the sun and rain.

Lots of bugs should be out by now. We can collect them, inspect them, count their legs and body parts and

3/4s

It's April...and spring has sprung (hopefully!) at Providence! It's time to spend time outdoors and enjoy all the "growing" that's going on around us! The playground seems to be the favorite place to be and the kids are so happy to be outside and MOVING!!!



Spring Break week starts off the month! Happy vacation, everyone! And when we return on April 5th, spring will have officially arrived in our class. For the next two weeks, there will be lots of planting and digging in the dirt, so leave those pretty, new spring clothes in the closet, please. We'll spend extra time outside while searching for signs of the season...flowers, buds on trees, birds flying north, etc. We'll fingerpaint with garden gloves and count and sort lots of different types of seeds. We'll also learn all about what it takes to plant a vegetable garden...and what we need to make those vegetables grow!

On the 18th, we'll begin our unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the bugs that live in and around ponds. We'll talk about which insects are helpful or harmful...and what bugs live outside or (yuck!) inside. There might even be times when ladybugs, ants, and butterflies will dance around the room. And wait until you see what projects come home...what does creepy, crawly mean to you?

The week of April 26th brings us a whole week filled with feathery fun. Yep, we're going to be talking about birds—all kinds of them! We'll read bird books, paint with feathers, make bird projects, and maybe even create a bird feeder or two. Come do a "fly by" and check out the excitement!

Our field trip will be on Tuesday, April 13th when we'll explore Hidden Pond Nature Center. We'll check out the reptiles, stroll around the pond, and even play on the terrific playground before having snack at the picnic tables. What a fun morning!

Spring conferences for the 3/4s will take place on Wednesday, April 21st and Thursday, April 22nd. Mrs. Nicastro, Miss Kris and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so there will be a minimum of disruption for the children. Letters for the Monday gang will be I (5th), B (19th), and K (26th). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet! Here's to warm weather and smiling faces!!!
-Mrs. Millward

—Weekly Themes—

4/5: Spring

4/12: Vegetable Garden

4/19: Pond Life/ Bugs

4/26: Birds



4s

The April forecast calls for showers of learning and frequent downpours of fun! Just pop open your umbrella and join in this month's flood of fun.

Our units of study this month will be Spring, the Vegetable Garden, Pond Life and Birds.

We will begin the month of April with Spring! Lots of fun science and colorful activities have been planned for this week. We will make flower headbands, work with pastel colors and finger-paint.

Next, we will play and pretend that we are growing vegetables and selling these yummy veggies as we change an area of the big room into a vegetable stand. We will also dip some veggies into paint to make veggie prints. This week is a golden opportunity to send those yummy veggies in for a snack.

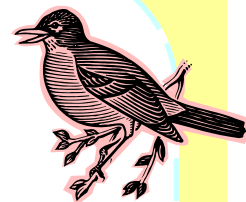
The week of April 20th finds us taking the plunge as we attempt to make a Pond come to life. We will

have a frog's eye view of life in a small pond. We will be swimming like fish, hopping and diving like frogs, crawling and climbing like insects and slithering like snakes. I'm sure to have some eager beavers, who also live in ponds, as the sandbox is transformed into a beaver dam.

Birds, birds and more birds is the last week's theme of April. We will create foamy bird house this week.

On Tuesday April 20th I will be holding year end conferences. A sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway. I don't believe that I'm even using the word year-end how is that possible? Happy April to All!!!

Love, Judy



—Weekly Themes—

4/5: Spring

4/12: Vegetable Garden

4/19: Pond Life/ Bugs

4/26: Birds

NOTICES

Maintenance Day

Saturday, April 24th

8:30AM-12:30PM

This is the *last* opportunity to fulfill the requirement that every co-oping family attend one Clean-Up and Maintenance Day per child in a co-oping class. If you have already fulfilled this responsibility, you can receive one volunteer hour for every hour you stay to help.

If you do not think you will be able to attend, you can pay a buy-out fee of \$40.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks! —Karen Wallace



ENRICHMENT!

April 28th/ 11:30am

Wildlife Ambassadors will provide an educational presentation on birds and bugs. These aren't the same birds and bugs you find in your backyard.

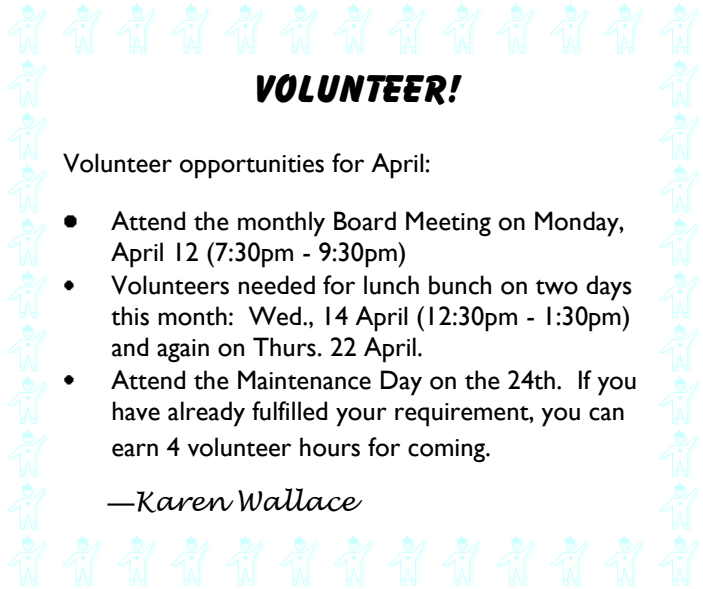
2's, CDO's and siblings welcome with a parent/guardian.

—Leslie Herman

Soccer begins Wednesday, April 7th and runs for 6 weeks. Last class is on Wednesday, May 12th. (Rain day make-up is Wednesday, May 19th).



Soccer is for children in the 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes only.



VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer opportunities for April:

- Attend the monthly Board Meeting on Monday, April 12 (7:30pm - 9:30pm)
- Volunteers needed for lunch bunch on two days this month: Wed., 14 April (12:30pm - 1:30pm) and again on Thurs. 22 April.
- Attend the Maintenance Day on the 24th. If you have already fulfilled your requirement, you can earn 4 volunteer hours for coming.

—Karen Wallace

Parent Surveys are being tallied. Come hear the results at the April board meeting.

—Karen Wallace

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our social committee, Karen Wagner and Abby Park as well as our fundraising team, Liz Claeys, Christine Clifford and Prassu Mehta

for putting together a fabulous night for PNS. Not only was the concert and raffle a great success but this by far was the best potluck dinner I have ever been able to be a part of at PNS.

Thank you to Christina Kodesh for all her hard work getting the art show put together and up (even with all the snow!).

Thank you to Flo Williams for making maintenance and cleaning days easy. You were there on time to set-up for the day and get the ball rolling. You don't know what a difference this has made.

Thank you to Janet Levowitz for speaking to us tonight and thanks to Maureen Cushman for coordinating our parent education program this year.

—Jenn Lyon

And thank-you, Jenn, for everything! We'll miss you!

BULLETINS



SCRAPBOOK PARTY TO BENEFIT SUSAN G. KOMEN 3-DAY FOR THE CURE

MAY 1, 2010
10:00AM –6:00PM
MANTUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUBHOUSE
COST -\$50.00

What you get for your fee:

1. Drinks all day, snacks in the morning and afternoon.
2. Lunch
3. Catching up with friends and having fun working on your books
4. Creative Memory Consultant in attendance to help with layouts, ideas, and products for sale, etc.
5. Raffle every hour for scrapbooking prizes
6. Most of all, know that you are HELPING FIND A CURE FOR BREAST CANCER!

(A Tax Deductible Coupon with the deductible amount will be provided at the end of the event.)

SEATS ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE
RSVP TO SANDY WRIGHT TO
RESERVE A SPOT. 703.279.8014

[SUBMITTED BY AUDREY NELSON]

*Providence Presbyterian Church invites your family
and friends to attend our*

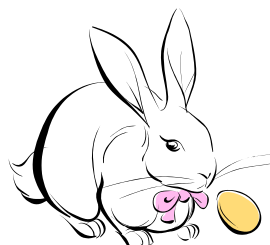
Annual

EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, April 3rd

10am-Noon

Rain or Shine (Indoor event)



All Families are welcome to enjoy free food, pretzel making, moon bounce, egg hunts, games and crafts!

HUGE

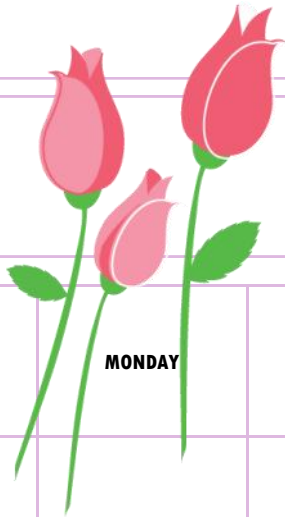
CHURCH WIDE RUMMAGE SALE

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH


SATURDAY, APRIL 17/ 8AM—1PM

The youth of Providence Presbyterian Church will be holding a Rummage Sale and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 17 from 8 am to 1 pm at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031. All proceeds from the sale will go to support Providence youth activities. If you have donations to drop off, you may do so Sunday, April 11 through Thursday, April 15 from 5-7:30 pm.

Contact Mary Ellen Moss at Providence Presbyterian Church 703-978-3934 with any questions.



APRIL 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 <i>HAPPY EASTER!</i>	5 <i>School resumes</i>	6	7 <i>Soccer starts</i> 	8	9	10
11	12 <i>No School</i> <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>7:30 PM</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>CDO Parent-Teacher Conf.</i>	20 <i>4s Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	21 <i>3s & 3/4s Parent-Teacher Conf.</i>	22 <i>2s & 3/4s Parent-Teacher Conf.</i>	23 <i>CDO & 3s Parent-Teacher Conf.</i>	24 <i>Maintenance Day</i> <i>8:30AM—12:30PM</i>
25	26	27	28 <i>Enrichment</i> <i>11:30 AM</i>	29	30	

