

**PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL**  
9010 Little River Turnpike  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
www.providencenurseryschool.com

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL (FCPS Holiday)

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
Board Meeting (New Board  
takes over)

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
CDO Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
4's Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
3's & 3/4's Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
2's & 3/4's Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
CDO & 3's Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> -  
Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Maintenance Day

# The providence pages

Volume 42, Issue 8

April 2011

## *A letter from Ann-Marie*

It's amazing how quickly time passes - it's been almost three years since Benny started at PNS. It has been such a great experience, and we will really miss all of the people we have met: parents, students and teachers. Benny was lucky enough to have all four of our incredible teachers: Sue in CDO, Susan in the 3s, Judy in the 4s, and Jane in summer camp. He has also been fortunate to be in the classroom with all of the wonderful aides: Mary, Phyllis, Fatema, Kris, and Nicole. We are so lucky to have discovered such a nurturing, happy preschool as PNS. I know we have been spoiled forever and that none of our future school experiences will compare.

Last year, I accepted the nomination as Co-President, and I'm so happy I did. It was a great experience getting to know the inner-most workings of our cooperative school and all of the fantastic parents who volunteer their time and talents. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my partner-in-crime, Marta Davis, who has been the best co-president one could ask for. Luckily for you, she will be returning for another year! I'd also like to thank Tiffany Link for doing such a fantastic job as Treasurer these past two years, keeping us under budget and on top of all of the financial paperwork. And finally, I'd like to thank Christine Clifford for her amazing efforts as Fundraising Co-Chair, especially her contributions to the school office project.

I'd also like to welcome our new executive board, who will officially begin their terms at the board meeting on April 11. Returning to their positions will be Marta Davis, Co-President; Emmy Cade, VP of Enrollment; Angie VonAncken, VP of Forms; Kelley Raich, Secretary; and Prassu Mehta, Fundraising Co-Chair. Parents who were on last year's e-board but who will be assuming new positions this year are Kelly Volciak, Co-President and Ryan Bianchetti, VP of Administration. Returning to the e-board after a one year hiatus is Fundraising Co-Chair Liz Claeys. And a very warm welcome to Sherry Steeley, Treasurer, who was a member of last year's board as Class Rep, and Terri Radziewski, Assistant Treasurer.

The next few months of school will bring a flurry of activity, including Mother's Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the End of the Year Celebration. If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on Monday, May 2. This is the first of several mandatory meetings for all returning and new parents.

This is such a bittersweet moment for me. I am excited for Benny to start Kindergarten, but I will miss the wonderful atmosphere and amazing people that we have met. Please keep in touch!

## *A letter from Marta*

On Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> the 2011-2012 PNS Executive Board will officially take over. This has been an extraordinary year for us at PNS - thanks in no small part to the dedication and hard work of our board members.

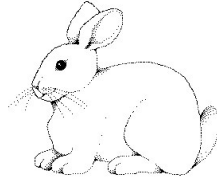
I would especially like to thank Ann-Marie Ward, my fellow Co-President, for her tremendous commitment to our school. Her love and appreciation for PNS made her a perfect board member but it was her intelligence and her thoughtful nature that made her a perfect Co-President. I am honored that my name was next to hers this year. I would also like to thank Tiffany Link for her many years of service to PNS. She was more than just a Treasurer for us this year. She was a lifeline that provided Ann-Marie and I with invaluable information and guidance. Last but in absolutely no way, least, I would like to thank Christine Clifford. Christine brought a bright and creative energy to the role of Fundraising Co-Chair. Christine was the inspiration behind the decorations at all our fundraising events and many of the crafts your children brought home. She also spearheaded the creation of our new office. Serving on the board with these ladies this year has been an incredible experience for me. I am honored to be continuing on as Co-President and I am so thankful that so many of our current board members are staying on through the next year.

## CDO & 2s

We'll begin April by talking about an animal known for its silly antics: monkeys. We'll read and reenact one of my favorite books: *Caps for Sale*. We'll make monkeys out of paper plates and play *Monkey See Monkey Do* (otherwise known as follow the leader). Obie has a friend visiting this week who likes to tell jokes. He'll teach the students his favorite jokes.

During the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> we'll learn about rabbits. Expect pom pom rabbits, rabbit headbands and carrot prints to come home from the art table. We'll practice hopping in the gym. We'll read *Muncha Muncha Muncha* by Candace Fleming.

Then we'll focus on what springs up from the ground: plants and flowers. 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.



I'm looking forward to chatting with you about your beautiful children during our spring conferences, which are scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> in the 2s class and for April 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in CDO. Watch for more information and a conference sign-up sheet during the first week of April.

We have no school during the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> as it's spring break.

Right after spring break, we'll celebrate Mother's Day. You are invited to join us for a special Mother's Day brunch on May 5<sup>th</sup> in the 2s class and on May 6<sup>th</sup> in CDO. This is an event that you won't want to miss. Our class will "perform" a little song and dance and we'll have special gifts to present as we enjoy a light breakfast together. If for some reason you can't make it, please let me know and hopefully someone else, a grandma or Dad, can come in your place.

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 week leading up to April 1<sup>st</sup> is all about Ponds. We'll find out about all the creatures that dig, swim and fly around there. Listen for the Speckled Frog song and look for fly swatter art and bubble wrap prints that look like frog eggs. We will take a field trip on April 1<sup>st</sup> to Jerome "Buddy" Ford Nature Center. If the weather cooperates, we can hike down a trail to the pond and see if any of its inhabitants are around.

Even though Spring officially started on March 20<sup>th</sup>, we're waiting until it's more spring-like to talk about it. We'll make "smashed" flowers and worm paintings at the art table. I have a little gadget that we can use to make flower pots out of newspaper. Then we'll plant seeds in them and watch them sprout. We'll learn about things that wake up after sleeping all winter and other things that start fresh each spring.

Next it's time to talk about and read from one of our favorite kinds of literature: Nursery Rhymes. The *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and *Mary's Lambs* will visit our art table and we'll see how many of Mother Goose's rhymes we can recognize at circle time.

After Spring Break our next theme is literally for the Birds! We'll fly and tweet, wear feathers on headbands and learn what makes birds so special. By making a sequence strip about birds, we will practice our scissors skills.

Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, are the dates for our second parent/teacher conferences. We can compare our notes from the last conferences and see what lies ahead. I've noticed a definite increase in the amount of conversation during the school day. The children are expressing opinions and solving their own problems as they play together - two great skills to acquire. Keep up the good work everyone.

Take a deep breath of fresh air and enjoy the spring weather!!

Susan



3/4s

"The flowers are blooming.  
The flowers are blooming.  
The flowers are blooming. I  
know, I know, it's spring!" I  
can't get this little song out of

my head...so I'll be singing it a lot around the preschool. It sums up my feelings...springtime has finally sprung at Providence! April is going to be a wonderful and busy month for the 3/4s.

We'll start the month off talking about what grows in the garden and why? We'll learn more about plants...and what it takes to make plants grow. We'll do some veggie printing...and we may even plant a plant or two. What a great way to spend a week in springtime!



Then on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll begin our unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the little creatures that live in, and around, ponds. The life cycle of a frog will be discussed and acted out. We'll also be "invaded" by bugs of all shapes and sizes during this week. Stand by for lots of creepy,

crawly art, math, and science experiments. Spring Break week comes next from April 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>! Happy vacation, everyone. May the weather cooperate and be beautiful!

Conferences will be held on Wednesday (4/13) and Thursday (4/14) during school hours. Mrs. Nicastro and Miss Kris and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so that there will be a minimum of disruption. I'll put out the sign up sheets before Spring Break. I look forward to speaking with all of you...your kids are all so terrific that I just want to make sure that you know how special they really are! 😊

Letters for the Monday gang are K (4/11) and J (4/25). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet and we've all had fun doing it!!

Quite a busy month, huh?! I can't wait for the fun to begin!

*Jane*

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 some flower head-bands, 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 attempt to 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 houses this week.

On Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 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!!

*Judy*



# NOTICES

## VOLUNTEER!

### Opportunities to earn hours this month:

- We need one volunteer to sub for lunch bunch (12:30pm - 1:30pm) on Wednesday, April 6th.
- Attend the monthly board meeting on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.
- Lunch Bunch Subs are needed for the VCPC Luncheon on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Attend the Cleaning & Maintenance Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Kelly Volciak*

If you have already fulfilled your requirement, you can earn volunteer hours for coming, up to a maximum of 4 hours earned if you stay for the whole day. Help is needed on this last cleaning day, so please consider coming for an hour, if that's all you can manage.

## NO May tuition payment is due in May.

Everyone paid May 2011 tuition payment last year. Those paying lunch bunch monthly, however, need to pay their May lunch bunch by **May 10th**.

However, Summer School tuition IS due **May 1**.

*Ryan Bianchetti*

## PARENT EDUCATION @ PNS

You are invited to hear Francine Ronis, LPC, speak about Positive Parenting on Thursday, April 7th at 9:45 AM. Specific topics covered include positive discipline, alternatives to punishment, emotional intelligence, attachment, engaging cooperation, resolving conflicts, increasing your child's self-esteem, and creating a family atmosphere of love and respect.

Francine Ronis is a licensed professional counselor who has been working in the Northern Virginia area since 2000. She counsels individuals, couples and families and her passion is helping parents find ways to live in joyous and peaceful coexistence with their children. She works with families and facilitates workshops on this subject throughout the country.

Don't miss this last Parent Ed talk if you still need those 4 hours! This one is scheduled mid-day at PNS while school is in session! (If you still need more hours contact Kelly Volciak at [kellyvolciak@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyvolciak@yahoo.com).)

This Parent Education talk closes out our speaker slate for the year. Mike and I have had a terrific time being your Parent Ed/Speech Screening, and Co-op Training coordinators. Thank you all for your critical feedback, participation, and encouragement. If you have other thoughts, suggestions, or topic-ideas, please pass those along! We'll be sure to note them down for next year. Cheers!

*Abbie & Mike Park*

# NOTICES

## Clean-Up/Maintenance Day



**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
8:30AM–12:30PM**

This is the *last* opportunity to fulfill the requirement that every family attend one Clean-Up/Maintenance Day per child enrolled in a co-oping class. If you have already fulfilled this responsibility, this is a great way to finish up your volunteer time for the year. You will receive one volunteer hour for every hour you stay to help.

*→We would love to have extra volunteers as we have a heavy to-do list getting the school and playground back in shape after the winter weather!*

If you do not think you will be able to attend and you haven't yet fulfilled this requirement, you can pay a buy-out fee of \$40/

*Kelly Volciak*

## April Enrichment

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Classic Tales 'n Tunes will visit PNS to lead each Wednesday class in an integrated music and movement program.

Sorry, 3s, 4s, and 3/4s students only.

*Michelle Danis*

## ***\$Your Money At Work\$***

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parents and families and the extraordinary efforts of our fundraising committee you will be seeing some new additions around PNS! New office furniture to help centralize our paperwork and organize our files will be replacing the large cabinet in the music room. It will also provide additional storage for fundraising and our musical instruments.

In addition to the office furniture you will also see that we purchased an additional library cabinet. In the Big Room we purchased a new couch and chair and are in the process of replacing the toy kitchen and sink and other toys.

## BULLETINS

***Merci! Gracias! Toda! Mahalo! Kam sam nida! Grazie! Hvala! Thank You!***

Our Spring Fundraiser was an enormous success! We cannot thank our Fundraising Co-Chairs, Christine Clifford and Prassu Mehta and their fundraising committee, Paula Rudnicka and Morgan Trotter, for all their hard work. The music was great, the food was wonderful and the prizes were creative. It was a fantastic event that raised more than \$1000 for our school! Thank you to all those who volunteered including Alex Erickson, Flo Williams, Jeb Mann, Sue Lynn McAndrew and family, Emmy Cade, Angie VonAncken, Tiffany Link, Allison and Chris Hagner, Kelley and David Raich and Mr. Richard.

*Marta & Ann-Marie*

*Providence Presbyterian Church  
Invites your family and friends to attend our annual*

### **EGGSTRAVAGANZA!**

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> (day before Palm Sunday)


Rain or Shine (Indoor event)

**10am-Noon**



All Families are welcome to enjoy FREE lunch, pretzel making  
Moon bounce, egg hunts, games and crafts!

# April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 FCPS holiday No school	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 CDO conferences  Board meeting 7:30pm	12 4s conferences	13 3s & 3/4s conferences	14 2s & 3/4s conferences	15 3s & CDO conferences	16
17	18 Spring Break No school	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Cleaning & Maint. Day 8:30am- 12:30pm <b>LAST ONE!</b>

**Mark your calendar for these important dates in May:**

Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Spring Coffee

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> - 2's & 3/4's Mother's Day Brunch

Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> - CDO, 3's & 4's Mother's Day Brunch

The Providence Pages is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to [kati.hesford@gmail.com](mailto:kati.hesford@gmail.com).