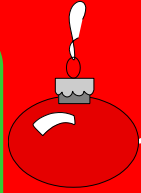




PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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 FAIRFAX, VA 22031
www.providencenurseryschool.com



The Providence Pages

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2009

A LETTER FROM JENNIFER...

At my house December means a visit from Grandma and Grandpa, the unveiling of the Chipmunks Christmas album, hot chocolate with marshmallows and my need to hand make holiday cards. I hope that you and your children find joy and cheer in the traditions you share at your house.

At Providence Nursery School, one of our holiday traditions is "adopting" families in-need. For those PNS families who wish to participate you can find more information on page 6. A pnsall email will also be sent in the next few weeks. You will be able to find a list of needed gifts for each of the families on our Giving Tree that will be located in the main hallway. I hope you take this opportunity to help others and use it as a great example for our children about how rewarding giving can be. If you have any questions, Kati Hesford will be coordinating this effort, and she will be happy to provide answers about our holiday giving.

Another tradition of giving at PNS, the Holiday Shop, will be December 3 and 4. This is a great chance for each child to do some shopping on their own (well, with some help from the friendly elf volunteers!) for mom, dad, brother, sister, or maybe even their favorite pet! Pre-order forms have already been sent home via pnsall but should you have missed this email and wish to have your child participate please get in touch with either myself or Liz Claeys as soon as possible.

This month the older classes will be taking a field trip to Woodson High School for the Tiny Tots concert and the grown-ups can enjoy the season with our annual PNS parents-only holiday party. Jane Millward, the 3/4s teacher, will host the evening on Thursday, December 17. Come

together with fellow parents for a night of fun and a lively ornament exchange. Thank you Jane for hosting this event year after year!

Snow, ice and chilly weather also start to show up in this month. As a reminder, PNS follows the Fairfax County Public Schools—if they open, we open, if they are closed or delayed, so are we. Check the Fairfax County Website (<http://www/fcps.edu>) or the local radio and TV stations for updates. Our complete inclement weather policy can be found below or in your PNS handbook.

And believe it or not, it's already time for returning students to register for the 2010-2011 school year! Families whose child(ren) may register for next year will find forms sent home with their children at the end of the month. We are also holding an Open House for prospective families on January 20 during normal school hours. This is a great time to let friends, family or co-workers learn about PNS and invite them to come see what you love about the school. If you want to participate, Helen Burvis, our Membership VP, needs volunteers to help with this event.

Wow, each month has so much going on! It never ceases to amaze me what an active school we are, but equally amazing is the level of effort our parents and teachers dedicate. A big thank you to everyone for making 2009 such a great year! Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season!

—Jennifer Lyon

THIS MONTH AT PNS

HOLIDAY SHOP
 DECEMBER 3RD/4TH

BOARD MEETING & PARENT ED.
 DECEMBER 7TH
 DETAILS ON PAGE 5

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE DAY
 DECEMBER 12TH.
 DETAILS ON PAGE 6

PNS HOLIDAY PARTY
 DECEMBER 17TH
 DETAILS ON PAGE 4

INCLEMENT WEATHER DISMISSAL POLICY — Providence generally follows Fairfax County Public Schools' policies regarding school openings and delays. If FCPS are closed due to inclement weather, Providence will be closed. Please listen to the local news or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-FCPS (3277) for the latest information. Also check www.fcps.edu, where you can sign up for FCPS Keep in Touch email notification system.

| Providence class time | FCPS 1-hour delay | FCPS 2-hour delay | FCPS 1-hour early closing | FCPS 2-hour early closing |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9:30-12:30 | 10:30-1:30 | 11:30-1:30 | No change | No change |
| Lunch bunch 12:30-1:30 | 1:30-2:30 | 1:30-2:30 | No change | No change |

CDO & 2s

If you feel out of shape after eating too much Thanksgiving dinner, just come visit with Mrs. B's class. We'll be getting back into top form as we jump, hop, run and learn all about our feet. We'll follow some mysterious footprints and see what we find. We'll read Dr. Seuss's *The Foot Book*. Shoes and socks provide great venues for discussions and activities with pairs and matching, making this theme one of my favorites.



It's bear week at PNS during the first week of December. Please have your child bring a stuffed animal to school on Monday, December 7th for CDO and Tuesday, December 8th in the 2s class for show and tell. We'll be studying bears for two weeks so you can look forward to lots of bear activities. We'll make our own bear caves and help some polar bears float on ice in the water table. We'll also go on a bear hunt. We'll read and re-enact the story of the three bears.

Spin art holiday shapes, tissue paper wreaths, and holiday cards are all signs of the season that you'll see coming from the process art table toward the end of the month. Also during the last weeks, the children will be busy making holiday surprises for their parents. These gifts won't be perfect but they'll be made with great love and care. It's hard to keep a secret when you're two, so the students will likely spill the beans. That's okay. It won't diminish their excitement when you open the gifts to see what they've made especially for you.

Thanks for attending our November conferences. I enjoyed talking with you all and learned a lot in the process. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of a dialogue that we will continue throughout the year.

I'll be missing all of my young friends over the break. I hope you all have a joyful holiday!

—Mrs. B

3s

This old year is winding down, but the excitement of the holidays is revving up as we prepare for family and school celebrations. We all get caught up in the fun of parties, shopping, concerts and gift giving - and receiving. We've got plenty of fun here at school, too.

Our first week of the month will be all about Games – running and jumping games, singing games, games to play on the floor or on a table. Then we'll talk about different ways people celebrate the holidays. Look for candle, tree, star or dreidel projects. After that it's Gingerbread Fun. Of course, that calls for some cooking because it just smells so good. And we can't forget about our friend, the Gingerbread Man. During the last week of school this year(!) we will put the finishing touches on some special surprises and try to remember that giving often makes us feel just as good as receiving.

We have some special activities lined up for this month. The annual Holiday Shop will be open for business on December 4th. Everyone who signed up will have an opportunity to do some secret shopping during our Big Room time. Then we'll decorate Gingerbread Houses on December 16th. Our budding architects can construct sweet dream houses from a wide selection of sugary building materials. Hopefully the houses will make it home intact! On December 17, Mrs. Millward is generously opening her house for the annual PNS holiday party. It's definitely worth getting a babysitter so you can come and share the fun and good food.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break full of special memories and I'll see you NEXT YEAR!!

—Miss Susan

—Weekly themes—

- 12/7: Bears/ brown
- 12/14: More bears
- 12/21: Presents & Giving

—Weekly themes—

- 12/7: Holidays
- 12/14: Holidays
- 12/21: Holidays



3/4s

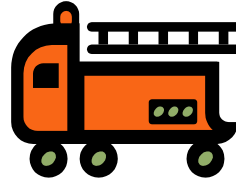
Can it be December already?
There is something special
about the holiday season that
just puts a smile on my face...
could it be the excitement that
I get to share with each of your

little ones? Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful creations! It is a terrific time to be a preschooler!!!

December's fun will begin with looking at the seasons of the year...and how they all fit together. How is summer different from winter...and how do the leaves know to go back on the trees in the spring?

There will be lots of thoughtful discussions going on at circletime! The week of December 7th will find us talking about our neighborhood and some of the people who help make it a great place to live. Then it's on to learning about winter animals during the week of the 14th--polar bears, snowy owls, penguins, and many more. There will be lots of "animal movement adventures"! Our last week before winter break will have us discussing holiday traditions. The sights and the sounds of the season will be obvious to all who visit our class. What a month it will be!

We will attend the Tiny Tots Concert at WT Woodson High School on December 3rd. It is such a great musical (and FUN) experience for the class and I look forward to it every year! It really puts you in the holi-



day mood! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! We also will be making Gingerbread Houses on the 16th as part of our terrific PNS Enrichment program. Yummy!

Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be Thursday, December 17th--and it's at my house! Yea! So look for your invitation and I hope to see you there!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be M (11/20), C(the 7th), and W (the 14th). This group is really enjoying their letter "work." They especially look forward to listening to the "Silly Song" that accompanies each letter introduction.

Happy, happy holidays and blessings to you and your families!

—Mrs. Millward

—Weekly Themes—
12/7: Community helpers
12/14: Animals in winter
12/21: December holidays

4s

The month of December will have us all full of excitement as the holiday season approaches. Our units of study this month are the Changing Seasons, Community Helpers, Animals in Winter and the December Holidays.

On Wednesday December 2nd, we will be going on a field trip to Woodson High School to hear the Tiny Tots Concert. Some of my past students now perform in this program.

Another very exciting day is Wednesday December 16th when we will be building Gingerbread Houses. I am looking for some extra help on this day, so if you can work us into your busy schedule, I would greatly appreciate extra hands and creativity in building these masterpieces.

We will close the month with lots of holiday fun activities.

I wish all the Providence families the most joyous of holidays.

—Ms. Judy

—Weekly Themes—
12/7: Community helpers
12/14: Animals in winter
12/21: December holidays



FUNDRAISING

PNS HOLIDAY SHOP

DECEMBER 3RD AND 4TH



**ROCKNOCEROS
CONCERT & RAFFLE**

COMING IN FEBRUARY

Please let me know if you have any suggestions about places we could ask for raffle donations, i.e. stores, restaurants, vendors. Personal connections are helpful but not necessary. Thanks!

—Liz Claeys

NOTICES



DECEMBER ENRICHMENT

Wednesday, December 16th

Build a Gingerbread House

Children will build and decorate their own gingerbread house during class time to take home. This activity is available only to the students enrolled in PNS. Looking for three volunteers per class to help assist with the gingerbread house decorating. Please contact Leslie at lherman@fairfaxva.gov.

You're invited!

WHAT: PNS HOLIDAY PARTY

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 7:30 PM

WHERE: MRS. MILLWARD'S HOUSE

MARGARET LANE, ANNANDALE

WHO: PARENTS AND STAFF (NO KIDS, PLEASE)

Please come to this incredibly fun annual event at Jane Millward's home, where great food and one very lively ornament exchange will be enjoyed by all.

Bring something to share—either food or drink—and don't forget an ornament for the exchange. (\$10 limit, please.)

RSVP to Ann-Marie Ward at Martina09@gmail.com —and also let her know what you'll be bringing.

NOTICES

PARENT EDUCATION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH/ 7-8PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Please come to hear Dara Feldman, Founder and CEO of the Virtues Project. This will count as one hour towards your parent education requirement. Stay for the PNS Board meeting immediately following and earn one volunteer hour, too!

And if you heard Dara speak last year, please know that she will address new material, this year focusing on the companioning process, where you can “listen” your children into their own solutions.

Mark your calendar:

February 25th/ 10-22AM. Dr. Charmaine Ciardi, a licensed family therapist, will speak at PNS. Location TBD.

REGISTRATION

Week of December 14th

Registration packets will be sent home to current families. Please check your child's cubby or backpack.

January 8, 2010

Registration forms for returning families are due.

January 20, 2010/ 10AM– 12PM

OPEN HOUSE. Enrollment for new PNS families begins.

Volunteers will be needed for OPEN HOUSE to:

- Give tours of the school
- Provide childcare (for parents with young kids on tour)
- To distribute flyers about Open House around the community

VOLUNTEER!

By the end of December you should have completed at least half of your volunteer hours. Here are opportunities and ideas for this month:

- Attend the Board Meeting (7 December)
- Sub for lunch bunch on Wed., 9 December
- Check with Fundraising (Liz Claeys & Christine Clifford) about helping out with the Holiday Shop
- Contact Leslie Herman about helping with the gingerbread houses on Wed, 16 December
- If you've already fulfilled required maintenance day responsibilities, you can earn four volunteer hours by coming on Sat, 12 December.

—Karen Wallace

PNS window
decals available!

\$5



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

NOTICES

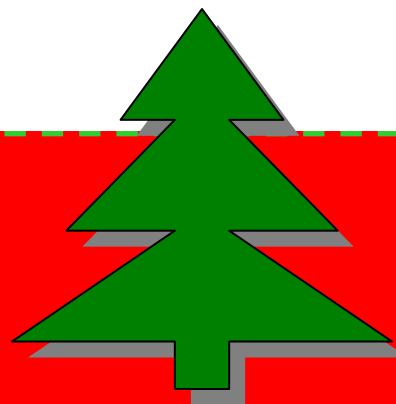
YOGA

BEGINS JANUARY 13TH

WEDNESDAYS/ 1:45-2:15

This winter, yoga will be offered after lunch bunch on Wednesdays, taught by popular instructor Jenny Corbett. This 8-week program is open to all students in 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes, regardless if they are in lunch bunch or not. Cost is \$86 per child (non-refundable once the session starts), and PNS reserves the right to cancel the class if a minimum of 10 children is not met.

Registration forms will be sent via pnsall at the beginning of the month. Payment and registration forms are due by January 6th.



THE HOLIDAY TREE PROJECT

Again this year, PNS is partnering with FACETS, a local homeless outreach organization, by helping to bring a little holiday cheer to a few families in need. We will be sponsoring three local families for the holidays, presenting them with gifts and/or gift cards before the holiday break.

Please join us by taking a star off the “giving” tree, which will be mounted in the hallway to the main entrance by early December.

More information on the Holiday Tree Project will be provided on the first week of December. Also, feel free to contact me at kati.hesford@gmail.com or 703-881-6543 if you have any questions.

—Kati Hesford

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE DAY Saturday, December 12th 8:30 am -12:30pm

Sign-up sheets are posted on the front and back doors inside the school. Even if you don't sign up, you can come and cross off your one Maintenance D'h'l'l'p'p'kay per enrolled child requirement. Or come and earn four volunteer hours.

Be sure to wear old clothes and bring work or rubber clothes, if you have them. If you have a heavy-duty rake, please bring it to help with the pea gravel.

If you can't make it, there will two more opportunities this school year: February 13th and April 24th.

—Karen Wallace

SPEECH SCREENINGS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND

10AM-12PM

Katherine Moore, a licensed speech-language pathologist, is coming to PNS to provide voluntary speech screenings to students ages 3 and up, although parents of younger children who have questions are also welcome to sign up and discuss with her more informally. The cost will be \$10/child.

—Maureen Cushman

BULLETINS

Thank you to all who participated in our fall fundraisers: Constructive Playthings purchases; everyone who came to Firehouse Subs, and all those who volunteered and shopped at Barnes & Noble day. A special *thank-you* to Emily Tuszynska and Marta Davis.

—Liz Claeys

Thank you...

...to Leslie Herman, our Enrichment Coordinator, and to Nuran Jeffries, her assistant, for their hard work to offer such wonderful Wednesdays. Thank you to Christina Kodesh for the beautiful bulletin boards that have been greeting the 2s and 3s families everyday. Thank you to Carol Frantangelo for keeping us on top of our fire safety at PNS with monthly drills. And thank you to the ladies on the e-board for taking an extra evening out of their schedules in November to meet.

—Jenn Lyon

! NO SCHOOL ! Note

that the school break begins on **December 24th**. School resumes on January 4th.

Thank you to all the generous families who supported the PNS food drive.



—Kati Hesford

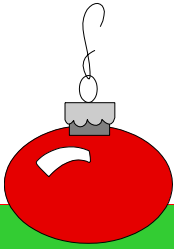


School starts at 9:30 AM.

The teachers need all the time in the morning to get ready for the day. Please don't be too early. Thank you!!!

BOARD MEETING 7 DECEMBER/ 8PM

Please note that the board meeting will be on the first Monday of December, instead of the second. It will begin after the parent education presentation by Dara Feldman.



DECEMBER 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------|---|-----|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 <i>HOLIDAY SHOP</i> | 4 <i>HOLIDAY SHOP</i> | 5 |
| 6 | 7 <i>DARA FELDMAN 7-8 PM</i> <i>PNS BOARD MEETING / 8PM</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 <i>MAINTENANCE DAY/ 8:30 AM</i> |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 <i>GINGERBREAD HOUSE ENRICHMENT</i> | 17 <i>PNS HOLIDAY PARTY/ 7:30 PM</i> | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> | 25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> | 26 |
| 27 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31  | | |

