

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax VA 22031

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www.providencenurseryschool.com

A Letter From Kathy

Snowflakes, hot chocolate, holiday music and time together with family!

Whatever traditions your family has for the winter holidays, we hope that you and your children find lots of love and happiness with each other.

December is a time for special traditions at Providence Nursery School as well. Our holiday giving project will soon be in full swing. Providence Nursery School will be “adopting” needy families for the holidays. For those PNS families that wish to participate, we will have a list of needed gifts on our giving tree in the Big Room. This is a marvelous way for your children to learn that much joy can be found in giving a gift that will put a smile on another little boy or girl’s face. Kati Hesford, our fours class rep is graciously giving her time and energy to this project, and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

And speaking of giving, our little ones will have a chance to do their very own shopping for presents for the special people in their lives. Imagine how grown up our little shoppers will feel! Our PNS Holiday Shop will be open for business on December 4th and 5th, but all gifts must be pre-ordered through the forms that went home in backpacks last month. If you didn’t get a form or have any questions, please feel free to contact Tiffany Link and Jacquie Nguyen, our Social Committee Co-Chairs.

Older classes will be taking a field trip to see the Tiny Tots concert at Woodson High School and the grown-ups will be able to enjoy the festivities at our holiday party on December 19. Jane Millward has been so kind to host this annual party and I would like to give her a big thank you for welcoming us warmly into her home year after year.

Holiday Traditions are not the only thing that December brings to us. We can usually count on some snow, sleet, or ice to affect our school schedule. We follow Fairfax County Public Schools—if they open, we open; if they close, we close. Whenever inclement weather is predicted, please be sure to listen to the radio, check out the Fairfax County website or the Fairfax County Public Schools TV station. A complete version of our inclement weather policies can be found on page 6.

Finally, ‘tis the season for registration for the 2009-2010 school year (did I really just type 2010?). Returning families should be on the look out for registration forms toward the end of the month. We will hold an Open House for prospective families on Wednesday, January 21 during normal school hours. This would be a great time to introduce a friend to PNS. I also know Mary McLaughlin, our Membership VP for enrollment will need lot of volunteers for this event. Please let her know if you can help.

We hope that you enjoy all that December has to offer!

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



CDO and Twos with Mrs. B

Our tummies won't be the only things that are stuffed after Thanksgiving. We'll return to school with our stuffed friends! That's right; it's teddy bear week at PNS. Please have your child bring their favorite stuffed friend to school on Monday, December 1st in CDO and on Tuesday, December 2nd in the 2s class. We'll have a picnic with our stuffed friends and then we'll go on a bear hunt during our circle time.

Run, run, as fast as you can...that's what our class will be doing when the gingerbread man visits the second week of December. We'll have our first group art project when we decorate a giant sized gingerbread man to hang in the big room. We'll build our own edible gingerbread houses. We will also reenact the story of the gingerbread man.

Spin art holiday shapes, tissue paper wreaths, glittering dreidels, and holiday cards are all signs of the season that you'll see coming from the process art table during the third week of the month. Also during this week, the children will be busy making a holiday surprise 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 are 2, so the students will likely spill the beans. That's okay—it won't diminish their excitement when you open the gifts and 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 continue throughout the year. I'll be missing all my young friends over the

break. I hope you all have a joyful holiday.

—Mrs. B



Threes Class with Miss Susan

It's here! It's here! Global warming and the bad economy can't keep it away. The holiday season is here! Our class is pretty energized even when there's nothing special going on, so the upcoming festivities will have us beside ourselves with excitement.

We have lots of fun and engaging activities planned for the month.

During the first week,

Teddy Bears will be everywhere. We'll read Teddy Bear books and make Teddy Bear art. Teddy Bears from home will be invited to a picnic at school.

During the next week you will notice a delicious aroma coming from the kitchen. Of course, that will be our Gingerbread Man cookies. We'll hear all about that yummy little guy who says, "Run, run, as fast as you can..." On Wednesday, the 10th, we get to make our own gingerbread houses, complete with icing and candy decorations. We promise not to eat any candy while we're building. (Ha! Ha!)

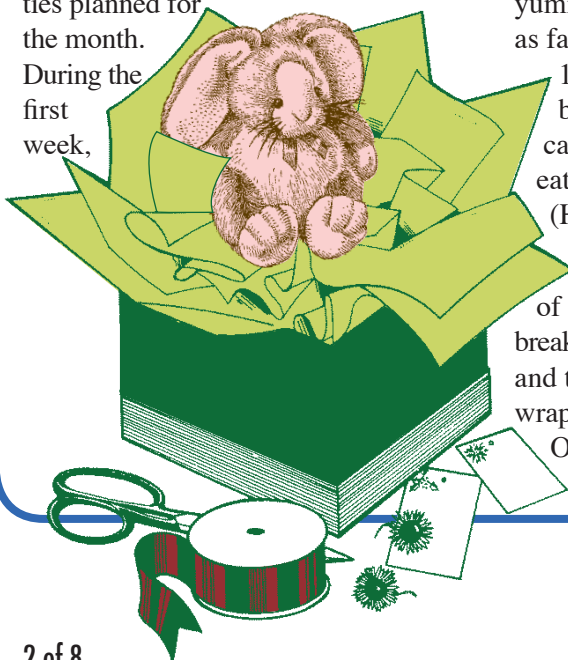
Holiday Traditions will be the theme of the week and a half before the winter break. We'll sing about Frosty and Rudolph and the Big Room will be busy with a wrapping center and woodworking bench.

Our big accomplishment for the month will be making gifts for some special

people. Shh! It's a secret. In addition to the handmade gifts, everyone who has signed up will be able to visit the Holiday Shop on December 5th and pick out gifts for the people on their lists. Some holiday elves will be on hand to help with those big decisions.

Then we will all be ready for the winter break and time spent with our friends and families. I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and I'll see you all in the New Year.

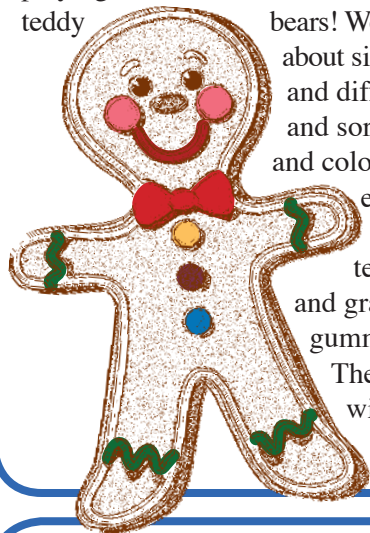
—Miss Susan



Three/Fours Class with Mrs. Millward

The holiday season is upon us—with all of its excitement and feelings of anticipation. I feel so lucky to spend this wonderful time of year with such a special group of four and five year olds. Their smiles and giggles make every day a great day at PNS! Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful preschool creations.

The week of December 1st will find us playing with a childhood favorite... teddy



bears! We will talk about similarities and differences, and sort by size and color. We'll even make an edible teddy bear and graph using gummy bears! Then there will be one of our

favorite smells wafting throughout PNS during the week of December 8th. "Run, run, as fast as you can" will often be heard as we study several different versions of "The Gingerbread Man." We'll use finger puppets, the flannel board, and even puzzle pieces to tell—and retell—the tale of that naughty cookie boy! Finally holiday traditions will dominate discussion time during our last weeks of school in 2008. We'll also spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. What a month!

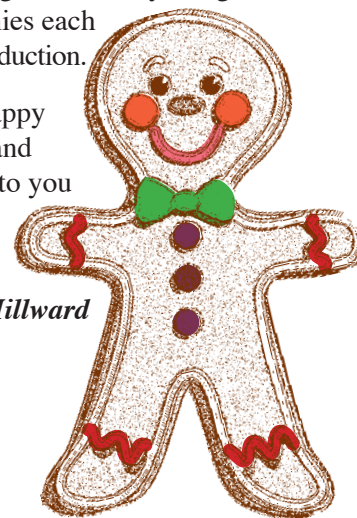
Our field trip for the month of December will be on Wednesday, the 3rd, when we travel down the road to W. T. Woodson High School for the annual Tiny Tots Concert. It is always marks the beginning of the holiday season for me! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! We will have a Wonderful Wednesday on the 10th...the children will

have an opportunity to make their own Gingerbread House! How fun will that be!!!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be B on 12/1, A on 12/8, M on 12/15, and a Review Day on 12/22. 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!

—Jane Millward



Fours Class with Ms. Judy

December is here and so is all the fun and excitement of the holiday season! We'll be celebrating the season in a number of ways here at Providence.

We will begin the month playing with and studying Teddy Bears. Creative play and craft projects, decorating Teddy Bears and Teddy Grahams tasting and then graphing the most loved flavors will become our unit of study "Teddy Bears" on Tuesday December 2nd. On Friday December 5th, bring your stuffed Teddy or other stuffed animal to our class Teddy Bear picnic.

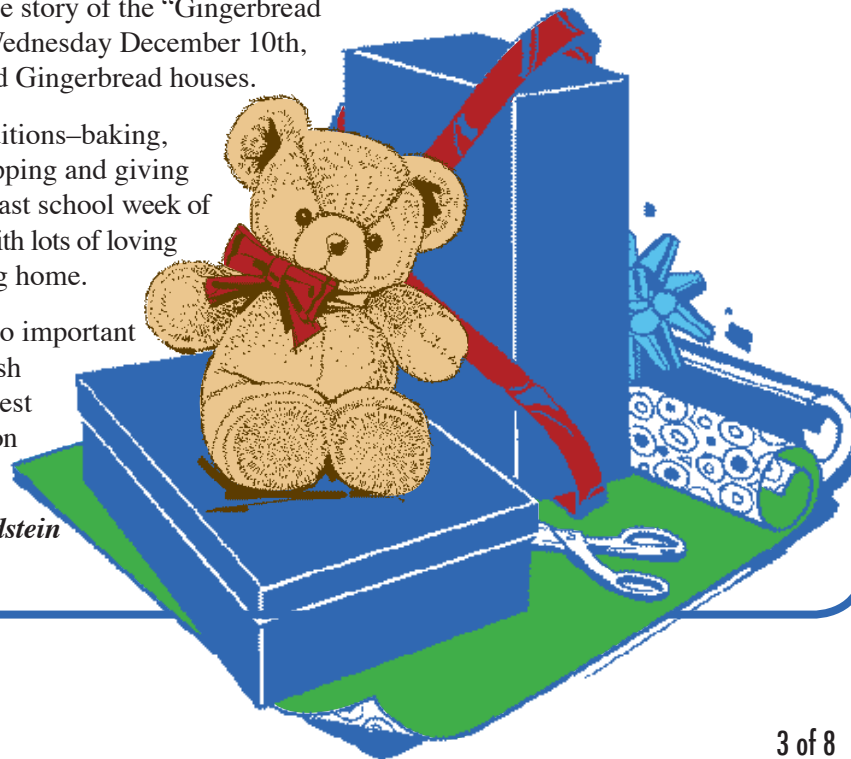
Then the wonderful smell of gingerbread will be wafting through the hallway. We will play with it, bake it and then the best of all, eat it. Everyone will have

the opportunity to show me just how fast they can run when we have lots of fun acting out the story of the "Gingerbread Man". On Wednesday December 10th, we will build Gingerbread houses.

Holiday traditions—baking, tasting, wrapping and giving will fill the last school week of December with lots of loving treats coming home.

You are all so important to me—I wish you all the best holiday season ever!!!

—Judy Goldstein



FUNDRAISERS

CONSTRUCTIVE PLAYTHINGS

Thanks to all of you who participated in October's Constructive Playthings fundraiser. I hope that everyone has received the items they ordered by now. If you were not quite ready to holiday shop here is another chance to do some shopping for the kids and raise money for our school!



tree top kids

Shop any Tree Top Kids store from
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
THROUGH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
to raise money for PNS!

10% OFF
(your total purchase)
& 10% TO PNS

During the designated program dates, simply mention Providence Nursery School when checking out and a sales associate will give you the 10% discount and add 10% to the school's total tally.

—Liz Claeys, Fundraising Chair

SCHOOL NOTICES



On Wednesday, **December 10th**, the PNS scheduled enrichment activity is building gingerbread houses. This very fun project requires parent volunteers to help the kids build the houses, approximately 5 parents per class. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering to help with the 3s, 3/4s and/or 4s classes. You are more than welcome to stay all morning and help in all the classes.

This activity will take place during class. 2's, CDO's and siblings are not invited to partake in this activity. Thank you.



—Leslie Herman, Enrichment Coordinator

SCHOOL NOTICES *continued*

REGISTRATION

Week of December 15, 2008

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

January 9, 2009

Registration forms are due for returning families

Open House

January 21, 2009

10:00am to noon. Enrollment for new PNS families begins.

Volunteers will be needed for the following:

1. to give tours during the Open House
2. to provide childcare (for parents with young children who are giving tours that day)
3. to pass out fliers about the Open House. These can be hung anywhere that families might see them (coffee shops, Little Gym, community bulletin boards, etc.)

Please e-mail Mary McLaughlin if you are interested in any of these volunteer jobs.

—Mary McLaughlin, VP of Enrollment

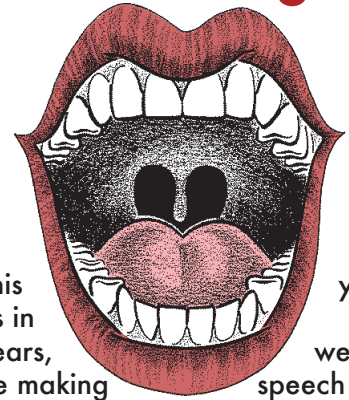
The Holiday Tree Project

This year, through a partnership with FACETS, a local homeless outreach organization, PNS is sponsoring three local families for the holidays, presenting them with gifts and/or gift-cards. Look for more info on this rewarding project and for the giving tree in the big room by early December.

Please think about bringing the holiday cheer to others. Thank you.

—Kati Hesford,
4s Class Rep

Speech and Language Screenings



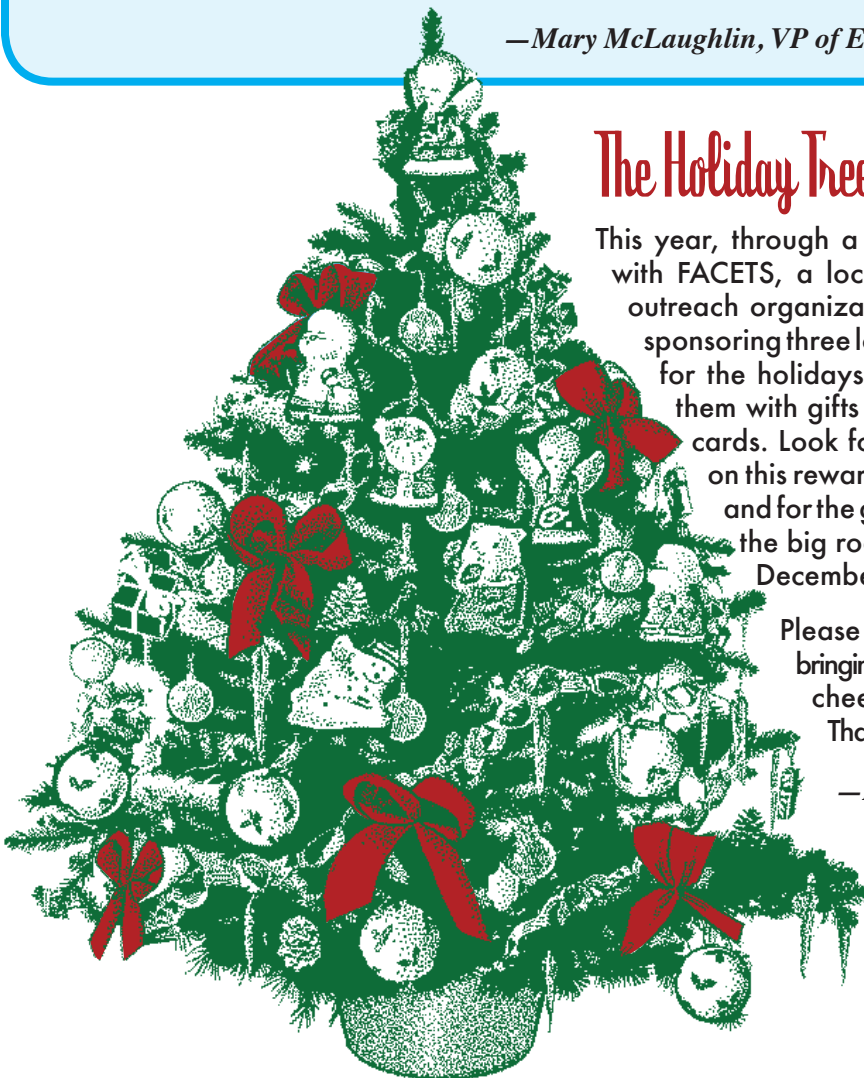
This year, as in past years, we will be making speech and language screening available for your children at PNS. This is completely optional, and will cost ten dollars per child. The screening is used to determine if a child has age-appropriate speech and language development, or if more testing is recommended. If you are wondering whether to have your child tested, please speak to his or her teacher.

On Friday, December 12th, from 10:00am to noon, licensed Speech-Language pathologist Katherine Moore will be at PNS. If you choose to participate, Ms. Moore will conduct a ten minute screening of your child, and at the end of the day the results will be put in a sealed envelope in your child's cubby or basket. You can bring your child in for testing even if she or he does not have school that day.

Next week registration forms will be distributed. If you want to participate, you must sign up and prepay. Starting Monday, a sign-up sheet and payment envelope will be in my mailbox in the big room—checks payable to Katherine Moore or cash, \$10 per child.

Please email me with any concerns/questions.

—Kate Beddell, PNS Education



Inclement weather policy

Providence Nursery School (PNS) follows Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) policies regarding school openings and delays. Therefore the following is the Fairfax County Schools inclement weather policy:

Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early. The procedures used in school closings are detailed below. Keep this info in a convenient location for future reference.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

Decisions on schedule changes are made after careful study of the best information available from many sources including weather services, the highway department, the police, and FCPS transportation staff members who are out checking the roads. While no sources dealing with weather predictions can be infallible, decisions are made with one overriding consideration—the safety of the students who ride buses or walk to school.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of children who are walking or riding school buses to schools. These schedules are:

- 1. Keep schools closed. PNS is closed.**
- 2. Open two hours late. PNS class times will be 11:30am–1:30pm, and lunch bunch will be offered from 1:30pm–2:30pm.**
- 3. Close two hours early. PNS is not affected by this.**

In every case of a schedule change, tune in to cable Channel 21, check www.fcps.edu, or call the FCPS hot line at 800-839-FCPS (3277). To receive this information via e-mail, sign up for the FCPS Keep in Touch e-mail notification system. The news will also be carried by radio and television stations, which are notified as soon as a decision is made. Do not phone the school or one of the stations for this information.

When the decision is made that schools will be closed all day or will open two hours late, the announcement will be made by 5:30am whenever possible. On some occasions, the school system has been able to make a scheduling decision the day before so that parents, staff members, and students know what will happen the following day. This usually happens when precipitation is already on the ground and the temperatures are such that the precipitation on the ground is frozen or will refreeze.

PARENT EDUCATION

Janet Levowitz

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

**Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00PM,
Spring-Mar Co-op Preschool**

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church,
10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, VA

Our next parent education event is , Tue., December 2nd at Spring-Mar Co-op in the Accotink UU Church. Directions will be sent out in fliers and emails.

Mrs. Janet Levowitz, a top-notch Kindergarten teacher at Mosby Woods Elementary School in Fairfax, will speak about what to expect at Kindergarten and how to prepare your kids.

If you have any questions about the event please email me with any questions.

—Kate Beddell, PNS Education

A BIG PNS THANK YOU TO...

...Kati Hesford for coordinating the Holiday Tree Project.

...Kate Beddell for organizing our amazing speaker, Dr. Ciardi last month.

...the Social Committee—Jacquie Nguyen, Tiffany Link and Audrey Nelson for coordinating the PNS Holiday Shop.

...Kate Beddell for coordinating and Mrs. Millward for hosting our annual Holiday Party this month.

...our field trip reps, Alice Kumar, Michelle Danis and Allison McMullin for their time and energy spent organizing our wonderful field trips and for our upcoming trip to the Tiny Tots Concert.

...We really appreciate all the hard work and thank you for your contributions, time and efforts you put in to PNS.

Feel free to print as many as you want to share with your friends and family. If you should forget the coupon when you come to the store just be sure to mention the offer and if they ask, I'm Jennifer.



HOLIDAY

Friends & Family

EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING EVENT

30% off

YOUR ENTIRE IN-STORE PURCHASE

Friday, December 5th through
Sunday, December 7th

PASS THIS ON TO FRIENDS & FAMILY
TO SHARE THE SAVINGS!

Promo 090006 • Valid in stores only
Present coupon at time of purchase to receive discount

I currently work at the Falls Church Blue Tulip in the print department and wanted to share my discount with you.

Right now we have the best stocking stuffers for kids and all of my teacher gifts are coming from here along with my ornament for the holiday exchange.

If you aren't sure what Blue Tulip is take a look at their website, www.bluetulip.com, but if you get the time the store is well worth a visit.

—Jenn Lyon, Newsletter Editor

Big, Fat, Chewy Chocolate Chip Cookies

from Jenn Lyon

2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 tsp baking powder	1 TBsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp salt	1 egg
3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted	1 (more) egg yolk
1 cup packed brown sugar	2 cups semisweet chocolate chips



Preheat oven to 325° F. Grease cookie sheets or line with parchment paper (I prefer using parchment).

Sift together the flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.

In a medium bowl, cream together the melted butter (melt in the microwave), brown sugar and white sugar until well blended. Beat in the vanilla, egg and egg yolk until light and creamy. Mix in the sifted ingredients until just blended. Stir in the chocolate chips by hand using a wooden spoon. (I also add one cup of chopped walnuts.) Drop cookie dough, 1/4 cup at a time onto the prepared cookie sheets. Cookies should be about 3 inches apart.

Bake for 15 to 17 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the edges are lightly toasted. Cool on baking sheet for a few minutes (5 min.) before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

Yield: Makes about 15 cookies Source: allrecipes.com

RECIPES

It is holiday cookie time and I wanted to share with you the best chocolate chip cooking recipe. If you are looking for a cookie like Mrs. Fields makes, this is it. Now, I have tried a few recipes (try about 20) in my baking experiments and this is the only one we make at our house now. The two biggest pointers to make it come out ideal are to let the cookies rest on the cookie sheet when they come out for about 5 minutes before you move them to the wire rack to cool and to make sure to seal them air tight after they have cooled to keep them fresh.

—Jenn Lyon, Newsletter Editor

December **II XX VIII**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3 Tiny Tots Concert	4 <i>Holiday Shop</i>	5 <i>Holiday Shop</i>	6
.....TEDDY BEARS.....						
7	8 <small>Board Meeting 7:30PM</small>	9	10 Gingerbread House Making during class	11	12	13
.....GINGERBREAD FUN.....						
14	15 In-House Registration Begins	16	17	18	19 Holiday Party 7:30PM	20
.....HOLIDAY TRADITIONS.....						
21	22 Hanukkah Begins	23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 Christmas Day NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 New Years Eve NO SCHOOL	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3

December 10—during class
Gingerbread House Making—This activity takes place during class. 2's, CDO's and siblings are not invited to partake in this activity. Thank you.

The Providence Pages is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Parent submissions are encouraged. Please e-mail articles to Jennifer Lyon at jennlyon@verizon.net or place them in the Newsletter Mailbox in the Big Room. Submissions are due on or before the third Monday of the month for the following month's issue. Please call 703-273-2098 or email jennlyon@verizon.net if you have any questions.