

# The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 4

December 2011



## *A Letter from Kelly...*

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have had beautiful fall weather, but now it's time to turn up the heat, pull those blankets out of storage, and stock up on hot chocolate and marshmallows. December is here, and the holiday season is in full swing. I am certainly looking forward to all the joys this time of year brings, but most importantly, the extra time spent with family and friends.

December will surely be full of many fun and exciting experiences for our children both at home and in school. The month kicks off with our annual PNS Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Big Room. Our fundraising and social committees have been working on this special event since the school year started. Your children will have a chance to do their own holiday shopping with the help of our PNS elves. Crafts, snacks, and pictures with Santa are all on tap for this year's shop.

While the holiday shop gives our kids a chance to get together to play, we think it's also time for the parents to have some fun! The Millward family is once again very kindly hosting our annual PNS Holiday Party on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We would love to see you all there. Please bring your favorite dish or beverage to share, and don't forget your ornament for the swap. It's always the highlight of the night! Watch your email over the next few days for details.



Although December is filled with fun, it is also a very busy time for our board members. We are already thinking about next year's enrollment which will begin for currently enrolled families in mid-December. You will be receiving an enrollment packet via email soon. In the mean time, you should be thinking about which class you are interested in for next year. If you aren't sure, please feel free to speak to your child's current teacher. They know more about our classes than anyone and might have some ideas for which class would be the best fit for your child.

We are also thinking about next year's board of directors. This is my second year serving on the e-board and it has been a great opportunity to get to know our families, teachers, and the daily workings of our school. This year, many of our board members will be moving on from PNS, leaving us with quite a few spots to fill. If you are interested in a position, please feel free to contact Marta, myself or any other board member. It is never too soon to get involved! There is a lot going on in the school right now, making it a perfect time to start shadowing and learning the ropes from our experienced board members. The official board changeover will take place in April.

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy holiday season. I'm looking forward to the New Year and many more happy memories at PNS!

*Kelly*



## **PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL**

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## **Mark your Calendar**

Saturday, December 3  
PNS Holiday Shop

Saturday, December 10  
PNS Cleaning &  
Maintenance Day

Monday, December 12  
PNS Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 14  
PNS Registration Opens

Thursday, December 15  
PNS Holiday Party

Friday, December 23 –  
Monday, January 2  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Holiday Break

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**CDO  
& 2s**

If you feel out of shape after eating too much Thanksgiving Dinner, just come visit Mr. B's class. We'll be getting back into top form as we start learning to hop in music with Mrs B. We'll also work on our catching skills in the gym if it's too cold to go outside.

Some call it the perfect toy. It doesn't require batteries, you can play just about anything with it, and chances are, you already have several at your house. What is it? A ball. Playing catch and kicking a ball build hand-eye coordination and work out the fine-motor and gross-motor skills that will help your child later as they learn to do everything from hold a pencil to ride a bike. Catching skills vary greatly at this age. Some kids channel Golden Glovers from the start. Others need more practice or are much more timid. Most children aren't truly coordinated catchers until they're 10 years old. In my case it took closer to 30 years... Playing catch with a large, soft, squishy ball or a partly inflated beach ball is a good idea for this age group-it's easier to grab and less scary when it hits your child. So please take try to play catch with your child at home or at the park this month.



We've been learning quite a few running games already- Red Light Green Light, What Time is it Mr. Fox and Duck Duck Goose (with Mrs B's modified rules). Please ask your children about these games and try them at home or at the park.

It's bear week at PNS during the first two weeks of

December. Please have your child bring a stuffed animal to school on Tuesday, December 6th in the 2s and on Monday, December 12th in CDO 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 3 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 during the week of December 19th as we talk about giving to others. Also during this week, 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 are 2 or 3, 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 of all my young friends over the break. I hope you all have a joyful holiday!

*Mrs. B.*

**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. Kelly or Marta will send an email notifying the school of any closures or delays as soon as they are aware. Please also listen to the local news or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-FCPS (3277) for the latest information. Also check [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu), where you can sign up for FCPS Keep inTouch email notification system.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays:

PNS Class Time	FCPS	FCPS	FCPS	FCPS
	1 hr. delay	2 hr. delay	1 hr. early closing	2 hr. 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



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 Teddy Bears. There are lots of famous ones to read about: Pooh, Paddington and Corduroy to name a few. We'll invite our own Teddys to come to school for a day. 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. The last two weeks of the month (and year!) will be devoted to Holiday Traditions. There are so many to celebrate, but they are all based on love and giving, so we'll try to remember that this season.



We have some special activities lined up for this month. The annual Holiday Shop will be open for business on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Your children will have an opportunity to do some secret shopping with the help of some friendly volunteer "elves". We will have a visit from our friends at the Wildlife Center on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a Storyteller is coming to entertain us on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Then we'll decorate Gingerbread Houses on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Our budding architects can construct sweet dream houses from a wide selection of sugary building materials. Hopefully they will make it home intact!

On December 15, Mrs. Millward is generously opening her house for the annual PNS holiday party. It's definitely worth getting a babysitter, so you can come share the fun and good food.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break full of the stuff that fond memories are made of. Then before you know it, we'll be saying "Happy New Year"!

*Miss Susan*

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 one 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 a week 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? Many thoughtful discussions will go on at circletime, I bet. There will be one favorite smell wafting throughout PNS during the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. Yep, we'll be "studying" the many versions of the classic storybook, The Gingerbread Man. Wait until you see what we can do with gingerbread...cook it, make play dough out of it, tell stories about it, and more! Our last week of school before our 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 WTWoodson High School on November 30th. 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 holiday 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! There will also be Wonderful Wednesdays on December 7<sup>th</sup> (Wildlife Center visit) and December 14<sup>th</sup> (a storyteller). What fun!

Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>...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 S(12/5), C(12/12), and reviewing the letters that we know(12/19). 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*

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 Community Helpers, Animals in Winter and the December Holidays.

We will be going on a field trip to Woodson High School on Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> to hear the Tiny Tots Concert. Some of my past students now perform in this program.



The week of November 29<sup>th</sup>-December 2<sup>nd</sup> is Community Helper week. We will talk about the different jobs people have within the community.

Next is Animals in Winter week. We will have a visit from the Wild Life Center on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>. During this week, we will be talking about how the different animals prepare for the winter months.

December 13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> is all about December Holidays. We will capture the spirit of the season with activities about caring and sharing. Your little ones will be laughing, singing and making spirits bright!!!



Have you ever noticed that some of the best holiday traditions involve food and family? My son just emailed me and asked that I bake some Magic Cookie Bars, one of my traditional holiday favorites, and clearly one of his also.

I wish all the Providence families a wonderful holiday season, and to building your own traditions.

*Judy*

## Registration for 2012-13

Mid-December – January 6	In-house registration for all returning families. The enrollment packet will be sent electronically via PNSALL on or around December 13, 2011.
January 9-15	Registration for school alumni and Church members.
January 18	Open House (school in session) 10 am to noon. If school is canceled or delayed due to inclement weather, the open house will be rescheduled to January 25.
January 18-31	Registration for new families.

We need one volunteer to accompany the VP of Enrollment to the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday, January 12 from 10 am to noon. We also need 8 to 10 volunteers on Open House day to give tours of the school and provide childcare for PNS parents with young kids.

**If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Emmy Cade: [emmycade@yahoo.com](mailto:emmycade@yahoo.com)**

## Winter Enrichment

PNS is excited to welcome **CREATIVE KIDS** back for our winter enrichment. **CREATIVE KIDS** is an innovative and dynamic literature based drama program. A professional actor/teacher will lead the class in exploring and dramatizing specially selected children's stories. The students then create and act out their own original stories based on these books. These stories come from all over the world and are carefully chosen for each age group. **CREATIVE KIDS** introduces students to acting, increases their love of books, and is loads of fun – a perfect mix for a great after-school program! **CREATIVE KIDS** classes will be held on **Wednesdays, January 11 – February 29, 2012** from 1:45-2:30 for students enrolled in the 3's, 3/4's and 4's classes. Students do not need to be enrolled in Lunch Bunch to attend. Cost for the class is \$112. Space in this class is limited to 15.



Enrollment forms will be sent out via email in the first week of December but will not be accepted until **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.



## Parent Education Events

**January 10th, 2012 @ 9-10:00 pm**



Please join Lisa Grace Byrne, certified Holistic Health Counselor, on Tuesday, January 10th, at 9-10 PM on the Internet for an interactive webinar about stress management for busy parents.

Stress prevents us from feeling vibrant and energized, feeling emotionally balanced and responding calmly and in control to challenges in life. During this hour-long interactive webinar, Lisa will explore quick, simple and practical ways to deal with stress, dismantle it, and shift into a calm response using stress-beating foods and restoration techniques.

Talk topics include:

- What is really happening in our body when we respond to stress. Once you know how you work, you can work with your nature to get the outcome you want.
- What foods signal your body to calm and center, and what foods tend to make you overwhelmed and exhausted.
- How to quickly stimulate your brain to relax and release feel good hormones.
- How to switch on your calm response, no matter how stressful the situation you are in.
- How to gain control of the strongest weapon you naturally have against stress.
- Effective ways to prevent stress build up and identify your unique stress patterns and triggers.

Lisa Grace Byrne is a trusted authority on mothers' health and wellness. She equips busy moms with tools and skills to live vibrant and energized lives. Learn more about her work at [www.WellGroundedLife.com](http://www.WellGroundedLife.com)

If you plan to attend this webinar, please RSVP by e-mailing Abbie Park (at [abbiepark@hotmail.com](mailto:abbiepark@hotmail.com)) by 1/9/12 to receive the URL and password for this talk. This webinar will count as one hour toward the required four parent education hours each co-oping parent must complete during the school year.

If you are not able to attend this webinar on January 10th, the slide presentation with audio and the live chat will be archived on-line and be available via password. E-mail Abbie Park at [abbiepark@hotmail.com](mailto:abbiepark@hotmail.com) for more information about archived access.

### Save the date!

**February 13th 2012 @ 6:30-7:30 pm**

Ruth Klimpl, an Early Childhood Special Education specialist with Fairfax County Public School's Child Find, is coming to speak on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the Big Room at PNS. You are invited to hear her share information about developmental delays, autism, and the Child Find program. During her hour-long talk she is looking forward to answering your specific parent questions about early childhood development.



**February 16th, 2012 @ 9:45-10:45 am**

On Thursday, February 9, 2012 @ 9:45-10:45 am, you are invited to join us to hear Dr. Rene Hackney speak about nurturing preschooler self-esteem, positive discipline, and motivation. Dr. Hackney comes to us highly recommended by many PNS families who have heard her valuable talks about early childhood development. Please come with your questions about how you can encourage your child's self-esteem. Dr. Hackney is happy to answer them all! Infants and toddlers are welcome at this event.

For more information, contact Abbie Park, Parent Education Coordinator, at [abbiepark@hotmail.com](mailto:abbiepark@hotmail.com).

## Fundraising

Thanks to all who helped make our PNS Book Fair at *Barnes and Noble* a great success! Whether you volunteered or participated, your presence added to the day in some way. Thank you to each of our teachers--Mrs. B with Obie, Miss Judy, Miss Susan, Miss Rachel, and Mrs. Millward--who delighted all the children with their storytimes and/or singing. Thank you to PNS co-president Marta Davis who merged her two worlds of BN and PNS so beautifully once again, staying all day to help with the Book Fair. Thanks to my fellow Fundraising Committee members (co-chair Liz Claeys, committee member Paula Rudnicka, and committee member Alex Erickson--also known as Face/Hand Painter Extraordinaire) for their help planning the event, creating crafts, watching children, and helping to make sure things went smoothly all day long. Also thanks to fellow board members Emmy Cade, Angie Von Ancken, Kelly Volciak, and Sherry Steeley as well as parent volunteers Alex Hume, Holly Powers, SueLynn McAndrew, Michele Heijl, Jeb Mann, David Raich, Allison Hagner, and Fatema Kanchan for their help with crafts, reading books, or watching children.

Holiday Shop is this Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm! There will be shopping throughout and Santa will be arriving at 11:00 am. Be sure to stay for the sing-along with holiday songs at 12:15 pm. Kids are welcome dress up, as we will be having photos with Santa. We hope to see you ALL at the Holiday Shop!



Our events are great fun for the whole family! The more involvement we have from our parents, the more successful our events are. We appreciate your time and effort.

-Prassu and Liz

## Know someone who wants to join our PNS family?

We currently have openings at Providence Nursery School for this school year in the 3s and 4s classes. The spots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call 703-963-7199 for more information.

## Wonderful Wednesday!

December Enrichment Activities:

Dec 7: "Whoo's Awake" by The Wildlife Center of Virginia at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Dec 14: Professional Storyteller Michael Fleming in the Big Room at 11:45pm



Parent-supervised 2s, CDO and siblings are welcome!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities to earn hours in the coming weeks:

- Help shop, set-up or decorate for PNS Holiday Shop on 12/3 (check with fundraising for details).
- Lunch Bunch Subs needed on December 7th and January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Help with shoveling and raking pea gravel during or after our maintenance day on 12/10.
- Hang the "Open House" sign in front of the school.
- Attend monthly board meeting on 12/12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Prepare food for the staff meeting with Dr. Ciardi, hosted by PNS on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact Ryan Bianchetti, VP Admin ([rdbianchetti@gmail.com](mailto:rdbianchetti@gmail.com)).

## Clean-up/Maintenance Day

Our next clean-up/maintenance day is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you've already fulfilled your clean-up day requirement for the year, please consider coming again to earn volunteer hours. We are going to need all the help we can get, at least 15 volunteers in addition to our maintenance committee, to finish up our pea gravel replenishment project and to give the school a good cleaning. Any family who comes from 8-12 and works on gravel to complete their Maintenance/Clean Up requirement will receive an additional volunteer hour. If you can't spend the whole morning with us, any amount of time you can give would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ryan Bianchetti ([rdbianchetti@gmail.com](mailto:rdbianchetti@gmail.com)) if you can help!

## Giving Tree

Hello Providence Friends,

I am very busy packing and making my plans to visit Providence Nursery School this year. I have spent the past few months lifting weights so that my branches will be very strong to hold all the wonderful new hats, mittens, gloves, and most especially the underwear that you will be bringing. I'm hoping you give me a real work out this year. All your donations will be given to the boys and girls at the ACCA Child Development Center .



See you very soon.

The Littlest Tree

## Speech Screenings

Each year, PNS offers speech screenings to those parents who choose to have their children's language development assessed. Please stay tuned for more information after winter break. Screenings will take place for all classes the week of January 23, 2012.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Konisky family who welcomed their new baby boy, William Peter Konisky, into the world on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Big brother Ben, in the 3s class, is taking it all in stride.

## Holiday Food Drive

Providence Nursery School will be collecting non-perishable food items for those in need. All food collected will be donated to the Providence Presbyterian Church food pantry. Some ideas of items that you can provide:



Peanut Butter	Canned Spam
Jams & Jelly	Canned Meats
Cooking Oil – Small Bottles	Canned Fruit
Mac and Cheese Dinners	Juice Boxes
Powdered Milk – Small Boxes	Soups and Stews
Rice Side Dishes	Dry Beans
Rice - Regular and Brown	Cereal
Cake Mixes	Oatmeal
Canned Potatoes	Syrup
Canned Mixed Vegetables	Sugar
Canned Beets	Flour



◆◆◆ Thank You! ◆◆◆

Thank you to Dawn Ahrens for setting up our school picture days again this year and ensuring the process would go smoothly and efficiently. Thanks also to all those who gave their time to help with the organization and especially to make our kids smile: Jennifer Brooks, Angie VonAncken, Michelle Weikert and SueLynn McAndrew. The pictures look great!

## December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3 Holiday Shop 10am-12:30pm
4	5	6	7 11:30 am Enrichment: The Wildlife Center of Virginia	8	9	10 8:30 am-12:30 pm Cleaning & Maint. Day
11	12 7:30 pm Board Mtg in the Big Rm	13	14 PNS In-house Registration Opens  11:45 pm Enrichment: Professional Storyteller	15 PNS Holiday Party	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23 *****	24
25	26 *****	27 NO	28 SCHOOL	29 *****	30 *****	31