



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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The Providence Pages

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2010

A Letter from Jennifer...

February is a favorite month at our house full of Valentine's love and extra snuggles but more importantly the best color in the world according to both of my children: PINK. I can already anticipate all the heart artwork that will be happening, as well as the 34 homemade Valentine's cards that will be keeping us busy.

Providence has a ton going on this month, too. For starters, enrollment is well under way. We held our annual Open House in January and I want to say thank you to our volunteers Helen Burvis, Tiffany Link, Kyle Durbin, Sue Bengston, Lisa Muras, Dawn Ahrens, Ryan Bianchetti and Susanne Fitch for giving their time and experience. Enrollment will continue throughout the spring for new families. It is a very exciting time at PNS with families returning and children growing up or bringing younger siblings in for the first time. We love that PNS is a family tradition! It's also important to spread the word; our best advertising is from YOU, the parents! Word of mouth is key to our continued success, so thank you.

We are also in the process of nominating next year's executive board. The nominating committee is looking for those who might want to be more involved next year in the search to fill the e-board positions. If you are interested or have a nomination, names will be accepted for e-board positions until the February 8th board meeting. This year the nominating committee is: Tiffany Link, Ann-Marie Ward, Maureen Cushman and Susanne Fitch. Feel free to submit nominations to any one of them in person, by phone or via email and feel free to ask for more details on the positions.

Later in February, we're having the PNS annual VIP day. This is a great chance for one of your child's Very Important People to come and experience PNS first hand in a fun and relaxed environment. It takes place on Saturday, February 20th, so it's the perfect opportunity for a family member or other important person to come who normally can't visit during the week. This special day is for the students and his or her VIP without siblings, so please plan accordingly. VIP day is optional, but it is a lot of fun!

February also brings a huge PNS event, our spring fundraiser, Rocknoceros!! Join us Friday, February 26th for an evening of fun, food and dance. Bring your friends, family and neighbors. The evening will start off with the PNS potluck dinner followed by the concert and raffle. Look for more details on page 4 of this newsletter.

Looking ahead to March we also have our mandatory Membership Meeting on March 8th, so mark that Monday on your calendars now! Attendance is required for all families currently enrolled at PNS. There will be a guest speaker before the meeting and the vote on next years e-board followed by the monthly board meeting.

Wow, things at PNS are bustling! We're really rolling now in 2010. Have a great February and a happy Valentine's Day!

—Jennifer Lyon, PNS Board President 2009-2010



Rocknoceros!

Concert & Raffle

Feb. 26th

DON'T MISS IT!

**PNS
E-BOARD**

The Nominating Committee (Tiffany Link, Ann-Marie Ward, Maureen Cushman and Susanne Fitch) is accepting submissions of names for next year's Executive Board through February 9th. All parents are welcome to submit their names, moms or dads, people new to the school or veterans. E-board positions run from April 1, 2010 through March 30, 2011. Besides helping out the preschool and getting to know other parents better, an added benefit to an E-Board position is that the materials fees is waived as well as your 8 volunteer hours. An additional perk to the president's position is free tuition. Here is a list of the people currently holding the positions so you can contact them directly with any questions about the job.

PRESIDENT or CO-PRESIDENTS (Jenn Lyon)—Responsible for the general functioning of the school, including scheduling board and membership meetings; coordinating special events; working with the Treasurer on budget and teacher contracts. Also appoints Class Representatives and VCPC Representative.

VICE PRESIDENT-ADMINISTRATION (Karen Wallace)—Responsible for assignment, delegation and monitoring of family jobs, volunteer hours, and parent education hours. Coordinates Maintenance Days and school cleanings. Assists President as needed and answers questions if President is not available.

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP-ENROLLMENT (Helen Burvis)—Conducts tours for interested families and handles enrollment or questions about enrollment. Also works with President to plan Open House and fill roster for the following school year.

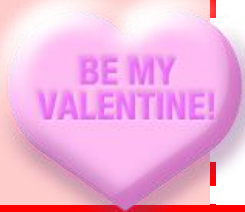
VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP-FORMS (Kristen Merten)—Responsible for organizing and collecting school forms and any questions concerning forms. Also handles changes to emergency contacts and updates to child's immunization records.

TREASURER (Tiffany Link)—Responsible for budget and school fiscal policies, including reimbursements. Works with Bookkeeper (school employee, not a parent) on salaries and other payments.

ASSISTANT TREASURER (Kyle Durbin)—Collects and accounts for school tuition payments and fees. Tracks Lunch Bunch enrollment and fees.

SECRETARY (Katharine McKenny)—Takes minutes at each board meeting and maintains copies of minutes for school records. Contacts anyone who needs a card of congratulations or sympathy, and handles updates to class Yahoo Group accounts.

CHAIR or CO-CHAIRS-FUNDRAISING (Liz Claeys & Christine Clifford)—Plans fundraising events for the school and directs fundraising committee.



—Weekly themes—


- 2/1: Hats
- 2/8: Love/ Friendship/ Pink
- 2/15: Music/ Loud & Quiet
- 2/22: Transportation

CDO & 2s So what do I have planned for my young friends this month? Our theme for the first week of February will be hats. We'll read and act out one of my favorite books, *Caps for Sale*. We'll make our own hats and have a hat parade. We'll even make a hat graph. Of course, Obie will want to show the children his favorite hats, too!

February brings Valentine's Day fun. You would think that at this age they wouldn't understand a day devoted to love, but trust me— they do. We have some friendships growing in both classes, and the chance to share valentines with each other is very special. On February 11th we'll exchange valentines in the 2s class and on February 12th we'll exchange valentines in CDO (Monday CDOers are welcome to join us from 9:30-10:30 for our V-day activities!). Please buy or make cards with your child (this can be a fun easy home project) to pass out to the entire class. If you sign your cards but don't label the envelopes it makes distribution a lot easier for my young postal workers.

While making holiday cards, take the time to look at how your child is using his hands. When it comes to using gross motor skills — things like walking, jumping, and running — your little child probably doesn't need much encouragement. But it's equally important that kids work on their fine motor skills — small, precise thumb, finger, hand, and wrist movements — because they support a host of other vital physical and mental skills.



—Mrs. B 

During the week of February 15th we'll be talking about Music and things that are LOUD and quiet. Parents, you'll love me when I send the children home with their own drums! We'll shake the walls of the school when we create our own rock band. Can you guess what instrument Obie plays? Wait 'til you see!

The last week of February is always fun for the kids as we study planes, boats, trains, and other modes of transportation. This is the time of year that we do "Big Roller" art — an annual favorite. We'll also drive cars in paint, and zoom boats in a sea of shaving cream (wear a wet suit if you're helping in the classroom). We'll sing a lot of cute songs (including my favorite dump truck song) so be sure to check the music section of our coming attractions email. If you have any photos from family trips involving air or sea travel or, better yet, railroads, please send them in to share with the class.

On February 20th we'll have school on a Saturday! This is a day when your child can bring a VIP, a Very Important Person to school. The VIP is someone who doesn't normally get to come to school- perhaps a dad, a grandparent, an aunt or a special grown-up. We'll have art projects for your student to try out with his or her special guest. The students can also introduce their VIPs to Mrs. B and Obi, as well as show them some of the things they do in school.

Because it's the month that we set aside a day to honor LOVE, let me say that I just love your children. They are truly precious.



3S Our hearts are all a-flutter because it's February, the month of love! We have settled back into our school routines and, as predicted, everybody seems a little more grown up and ready to take on the world (or at least their preschool world). That's a good thing, because we've got plenty to do this month.

Our first theme of the month is Dental Health. We're at the age for first visits to the dentist and learning to take care of our teeth, so a little fun with toothbrushes and dental floss is in order. We'll take a field trip to a dentist's office on February 12th, to learn what goes on there.

Then we'll talk about friends and loved ones during Love and Friendship Week. Hearts of red and pink will be all over the place. Hopefully some of them will make their way home to you. We are going to "mail" our valentines to each other at school, so be sure to include the symbols when addressing them. I'll send home a list with instructions and everyone's symbol on it, but I bet the kids already know them. It's so much fun to deliver all those valentines.

Transportation is the last theme of the month. Everybody loves things that go: cars, trains, boats and planes. And we've got art projects, books and songs

about all of those vehicles, too. I hope we get to have some bike days this month, too.

There are three special events in February. The first is our annual Art Show. Selected masterpieces created by your talented children will be displayed this month at Kings Park Library. Be sure to arrange a visit. Seeing one's work on exhibit in public is very exciting!

The second special event is VIP Day. The VIP is a parent, relative or special grown-up friend who doesn't normally get to come to school. On February 20th, from 10:00AM to Noon, the Big Room will be an open house of crafts and games and fun with all your preschool friends and VIPs.

Then on Friday, the 26th, it's our big fundraiser featuring Rocknoceros. Come join the fun and support your preschool!

As you can see, we've got an action packed month ahead. Let's get to it!!

—Miss Susan



—Weekly themes—

- 2/1: Dental health
- 2/8: Love & Friendship
- 2/15: Transportation
- 2/22: Transportation

3/4s

January has blown out of Fairfax and hopefully taken all those subfreezing temperatures with it! I miss the playground! We sure had fun with snow and ice and all those dinosaurs, but now we are ready to jump into new and exciting adventures here at P.N.S. February has many things going for it – it's short, has

great themes, a once-in-a lifetime field trip, a concert at our school, and VIP Day. Who could ask for more?

This group of kids is charged up and ready to go... first we're off to talk about Groundhog Day and Terrific Teeth starting the week of February 2nd. Now that's a combination, isn't it? But both are relevant and lots of fun! We'll make groundhog puppets and paint with toothbrushes. Plus we'll talk about my favorite community helper...the dentist (My daddy is a retired dentist, so I am prejudiced!) and National Dental Health day.



Next comes the week of February 8th where we will be celebrating love and friendship. You will find the class busy creating Valentine cards, playing in the post office dramatic play area, and learning new fingerplays about our friends. We will exchange Valentine cards on Thursday, February 11th. I would like the children to each bring a signed valentine for every member of the class on that day. Please "address" each envelop with both the child's name and colored symbol. That way your child will be able to "mail" the valentines to his/her friends... all by themselves. (You know me and my hope of independence for all!) The kids love this activity and it makes Valentine's Day very special. (I will send home a list of symbols soon.) Anyone interested in sending in a special Valentine's snack?

The week of the 15th brings us to a unit on body parts. There are so many fun activities to review all of our "important" body parts...

songs and dances will be high on my list this week. Plus I have a bunch of silly books that I can't wait to share! Simon Says, "Clap your hands!"

Starting February 22nd, we will shift gears (literally and figuratively!) and discover all sorts of information about different modes of transportation – from cars to trains to boats to airplanes. The kids will become real experts concerning all types of vehicles (our grownup word of the month) during this week. In fact, there will be a very special trip to introduce this topic on Tuesday, February 23rd...we are lucky enough to be able to visit the Virginia Department of Transportation garage in Merrifield to

see all the different types of trucks used by the state. How cool is that?

The 4s gang will be working with the letters V and E. You should hear everyone work together to try to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit of this group! Mondays are definitely fun days!

Remember no school on February 15th (Presidents' Day). And please put VIP Day on your calendar. I look forward to seeing your PNS student and their special grown-up on Saturday, February 20th from 10:00-12:00. Plus make sure that you have your tickets for the fabulous Rocknoceros concert that will be at Providence on Friday, February 26th! It will be too much fun to miss!

Are you ready...it is going to be a LOVE-ly month!

—Mrs. Millward



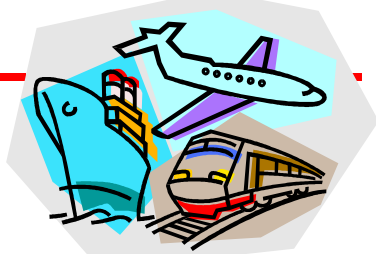
—Weekly Themes—

**2/1: Groundhog Day/
Terrific Teeth**

2/8: Love/ Friendship

2/15: Body Parts

2/22: Transportation



4s

Wow!!!! The first month of the new year has slipped by so fast. We loved adding lots of drops of color to a block of ice. What a January.

Now, on to February! During the month of February lots of fun activities have been planned for our class. Throughout the first week of February, we will be discussing dental health. A play dentist office will be ready for some dentists and patients as the children role play during the big room time. We will also try brushing on paper with a toothbrush dipped in paint.

Next, we will study Love and Friendship from February 9th-12th. Many heart shaped craft projects will come home that week. On February 12th, we will have a class Valentine celebration. On this day, each child is welcome to bring a valentine for the other class members. Please start early having your child address and sign his or her Valentine cards.

Our bodies are the next week's unit of study. We will be doing some weighing and measuring this week.

The last week of February will find us discovering many types of transportation from roads and rails to sea and sky.

Mark your calendar. February 20th from 10-noon is the annual V.I.P. Day. Come and join the fun with your Very Important Person.

—Weekly Themes—

2/1: Dental health

2/8: Love & Friendship

2/15: My Body

2/22: Transportation

—Ms. Judy



NOTICES

VIP DAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

10AM– 12 PM

On our annual VIP Day, your child invites one *Very Important Person* to visit their school with them. The teachers will have wonderful crafts and activities planned. No co-oping parents, please. We'd like the children to bring someone who doesn't regularly visit the school.

PNS ART SHOW

February 6-20

Kings Park Library
9000 Burke Lake Road

Student art will be on display on the children's wall inside the library.

Rocknoceros

Friday, FEBRUARY 26th

Potluck: 6-7pm — Concert: 7pm — Raffle to follow

Providence Fellowship Hall



\$10 per person in advance
\$12 per person at the door

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is almost here! The concert will start at 7pm, and the raffle will follow. Before the concert we will have a potluck dinner from 6 to 7. Feel free to bring friends and other family members to the potluck—just make sure to let us know. (Sign-up sheets for dishes needed will be out soon.)

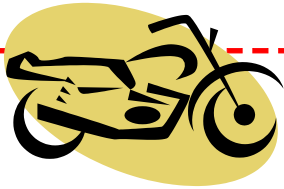
Admission tickets for the concert will be **\$10** per person, if purchased in advance through the Fundraising Committee. Tickets will be **\$12** at the door, and also available online through PayPal for **\$12**. Buy four tickets, and you can get 1 free. And, yes, it is fine for families to team up for that deal.

We are still in need of raffle items. If you have any ideas about places that the Committee should solicit, please let us know ASAP. Also, I would love to include some items or services donated by PNS families. Is there something special that you make for friends and family? Any hobbies or part-time services that you would be willing to offer? Do you bake great cakes that someone could "order"? Any time spent on a project or in fulfilling a service offered at the raffle could be counted as volunteer hours. Also please consider putting together class "themed" baskets to be raffled off.

We need volunteers for set-up and clean-up at the event. Please let Liz, Christine, or Prassu know if you are interested in helping. —*Liz Claeys*



NOTICES



FEBRUARY ENRICHMENT

February 24, 2010/ 11:30am/Fellowship Hall

Show & Tell with the Fairfax Harley Owner's Group

The Fairfax Harley Owner's Group will relate the protective gear and safety items that they use when riding motorcycles to the need for the children to be careful and to protect themselves when they ride bikes, scooters and skateboards. As long as the weather is nice, the children will go outside to see the bikes and sit on them. Parents can bring cameras to take snapshots. 2's, CDO's and siblings are welcome with a parent/guardian.

—Leslie Herman

Maintenance Day

Saturday, February 13th

8:30AM-12:30PM

If you haven't fulfilled your clean-up/maintenance day requirement for the school year, now is your chance. The final clean-up for the year will be on **Sat, April 24th**. If you can't make either of these days, you can still buy out for \$40. Please contact me for more information.

—Karen Wallace

Parent Education

February 25th/ 10AM-11AM

Questions about parenting? Help is on the way! By popular request, Dr. Charmaine Ciardi of the Parent-Child Development Services in Bethesda is returning to PNS. The format for her talk can be a specific topic but it inevitably turns into an open discussion, so bring your questions! Attendees will receive 1 hour of parent education credit. —Maureen Cushman



VOLUNTEER!

Here are some volunteer opportunities for this month:

- Volunteers needed to sub for lunch bunch on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd (12:30-1:30) and for Monday, Feb. 8th (1:00-1:30).
- Attend the Board Meeting (February 8th).
- Help with the Raffle/Concert on Feb. 26th. Contact Liz Claeys.
- Attend the maintenance day on the 13th. If you have already fulfilled your requirement, you can get 4 volunteer hours for coming.

—Karen Wallace

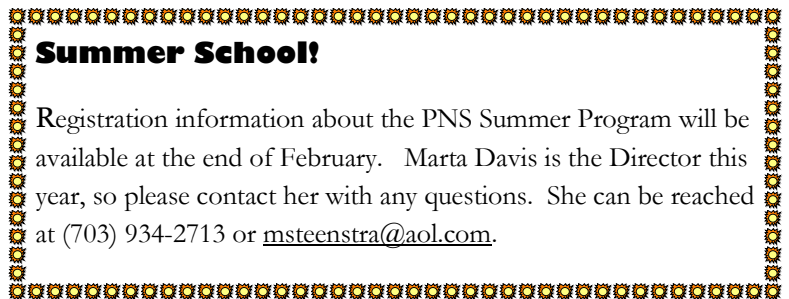


2 More Things from Karen...

1. **Parent Surveys** will be coming this month. They will be completed electronically again this year. Please fill one out for each class in which you have a child enrolled at the school.
2. Please provide updates to your family job descriptions, so that I can make changes for next year's family. If you need an electronic copy, please contact me directly.

Summer School!

Registration information about the PNS Summer Program will be available at the end of February. Marta Davis is the Director this year, so please contact her with any questions. She can be reached at (703) 934-2713 or msteenstra@aol.com.



BULLETINS

! NO SCHOOL !

Please note that there is no school on Monday, February 1st (FCPS holiday) and Monday, February 15th (Presidents' Day).

Thank you...

...to the Class Reps, Marta Davis, SueLynn McAndrew, Ann-Marie Ward, Audrey Nelson and Michelle Weikert who spent their time and thoughts to organize class presents for the teachers and aides.

Thank you to Helen Burvis for getting in-house registration for 2010 rolling and for a successful Open House.

Thanks to Emily Tuszynska for organizing the VCPC luncheon and to all the parents who brought food to the lunch.

Thank you to Jennifer Gear and Ritu Jaiswal for keeping the art corner up and running for our teachers and children and especially to Jennifer for tackling the month of December on her own while Ritu was away.

Finally, thank you to Yuna Wong for keeping PNS stocked with playdough.

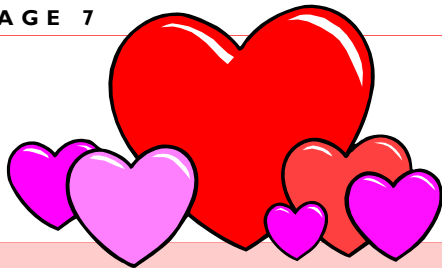
—Jenn Lyon

Congratulations!...

to the Cushman family on the birth of their daughter. Elizabeth Rose (Libby) was born in December.

Plenty of PNS car clings are still available for \$5. Contact Liz Claeys if you'd like to purchase one.





FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i><u>NO SCHOOL</u></i> <i>FCPS Holiday</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>7:30 PM</i>	9	10	11	12	13 <i>Maintenance Day</i> <i>8:30AM –12:30 PM</i>
14 	15 <i><u>NO SCHOOL</u></i> <i>Presidents' Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <i>VIP Day</i> <i>10AM-12PM</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>ROCKNOCEROS</i> <i>Concert & Raffle</i> <i>7pm</i>	27
28						

Coming in March...

Monday, March 8th/ Annual membership meeting (mandatory attendance), followed by the monthly board meeting.

