

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax VA 22031

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www.providencenurseryschool.com

A Letter From Kathy

I love the month of February. After the hustle and bustle of the December holidays and the hoopla of the January inauguration, February lets us sit back and relax. In the Van Dyke household, we've been having quite a few family game days and movie nights. But just because February is slow and easy, it doesn't mean there isn't any excitement at PNS.

Enrollment is in full swing. Thanks to Mary McLaughlin and her group of eager volunteers, we had a fabulous Open House. A big thank you to the teachers as well... I know many parents really enjoyed seeing children playing and learning. Though Open House is over, enrollment for new families will continue throughout the spring. The number one way families hear about PNS is through word of mouth. Please wear your red PNS T-shirts out and about and spread the word about our school. Robin and I are thrilled to see how many families are returning to PNS. We are also saddened that our youngest are growing up fast and she and I will no longer have any children at PNS.

Enrollment isn't the only way we are looking toward the new school year. The nominating committee is continuing to work on putting forth a slate of candidates for next year's executive board. We have had many enthusiastic parents submit their names; however, we will continue to accept submissions of names until the February 9th board meeting. If you think you may be interested, please see me or the other three members of the nominating committee (Christine Clifford, Jenn Lyon and Karen Wallace).

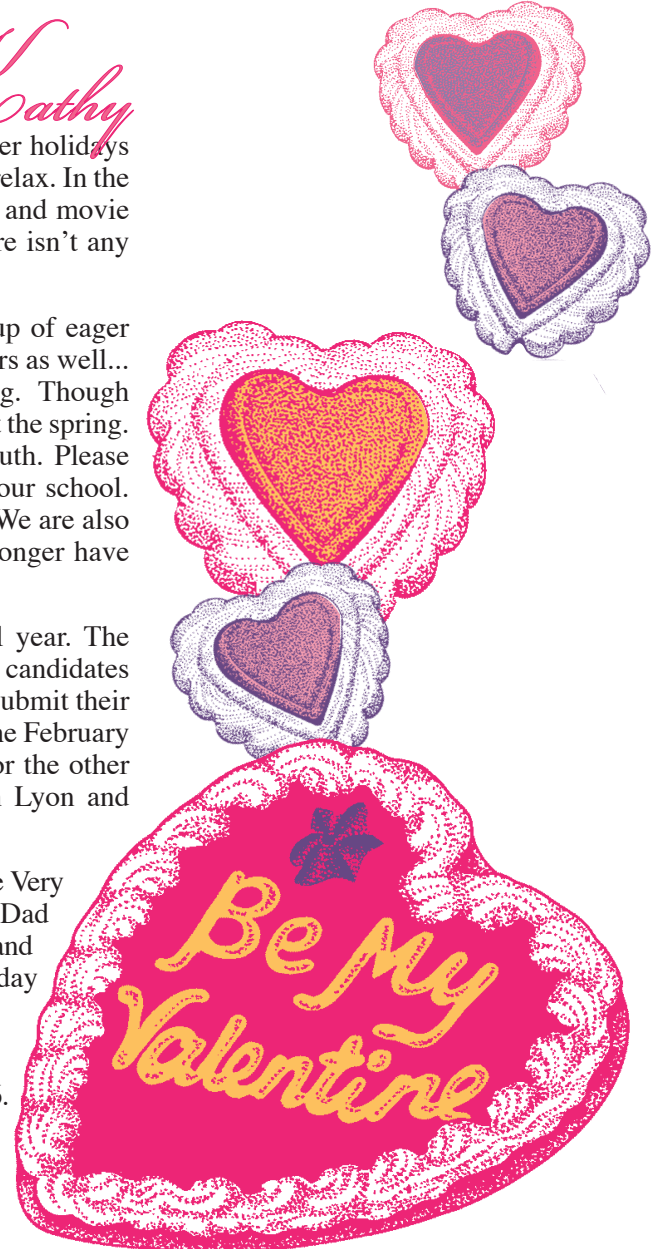
On Saturday, February 21, PNS will hold its annual VIP day. Who are those Very Important People in your child's life (aside from you of course!)? Does Dad ever have the chance to see what's happening at PNS? Would Grandma and Grandpa like to visit the school? How about a favorite aunt or uncle? VIP day is the perfect time for a family member or special friend who normally doesn't get to see PNS to come and visit.

On another note, we had scheduled a potluck dinner for Friday, February 6. Based on your positive responses to my poll, I can see that many people were looking forward to that dinner. Unfortunately, due to a facilities scheduling conflict, we can't hold the potluck as originally scheduled. I will continue to find a date and available room.

Finally, looking ahead to March, please make sure to put Monday, March 9 on your calendar. That is the night of our annual membership meeting, attendance at which is required for all families.

Robin and I thank you for reading this and hope that you will enjoy all that February has to offer!

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



CDO and Twos with Mrs. B

We'll start the first week of February by talking about our pets. We'll spend some extra time this week observing our school animals—especially Cleo, our gecko lizard. We'll even be making our own lizards in art! We'll also have a special pet show during circle time on Monday, February 2 in CDO and on Thursday, February 5th in the 2s class. Students should bring in a photo or drawing of their pet for the show. Students who don't have a pet at home (or those that do) can bring in a favorite stuffed animal. I will bring in my daughter's guinea pig- Runny-for everyone to see.

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 friendships growing in both classes, and the chance to share valentines with each other is very special. On February 12 we'll exchange valentines in the 2s

class and on February 13th we'll exchange valentines in the CDO. 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.

The last two weeks of February are 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 21st 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.

—Mrs. B



Threes Class with Miss Susan

Our hearts are all a-flutter because it's February: The month of love! We have settled back into our school routines and 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 lots to do this month.

Our first theme of the month is Pets. We all like to talk about our pets, real and imaginary. So we'll have fun painting and gluing pet art, reading pet stories and pretending to be different kinds of pets, especially kitties! Then we'll show how much we love our friends and family during Valentines week. There will be hearts everywhere and we'll have a Valentine card swap and heart shaped treats. The last two weeks of the month will be devoted to Land Transportation and Sea & Air Transportation. All of

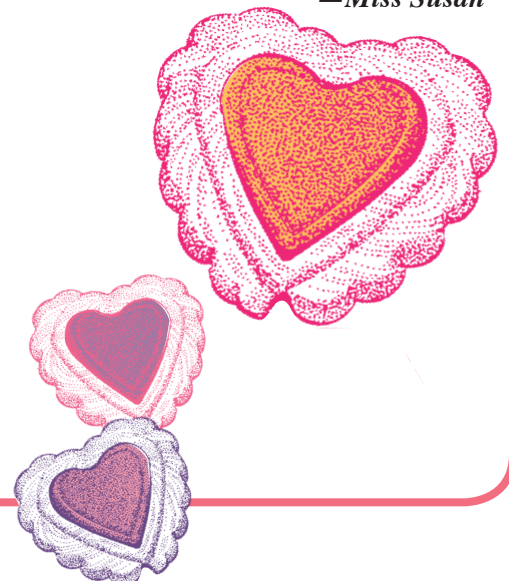
our vehicle enthusiasts will be in their element with these themes. Things that roll, float and fly will show up on the art table and at circle time. Maybe we'll even be able to enjoy a bike day or two. On Wednesday, the 18th, we will have a visit from some big bikers. A local Harley club will bring their motorcycles for us to check out and teach us about bike, scooter and skate safety.

I hope to see lots of you at the Pot Luck Dinner on Friday the 6th. We have so many good cooks among us and it's fun to spend an evening with people from other classes that we don't see very often during the day.

Works of art by our talented preschoolers will be featured at Kings Park Library. The cold weather makes it a great time to visit the library, check out some books and view the masterpieces.

On the 21st the kids are invited to bring a VIP (someone who doesn't usually co-op—a parent, relative or special grown-up friend) to VIP Day. It's an open house of fun crafts and activities from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Big Room. They won't want to miss it!

—Miss Susan



Three/Fours Class with Mrs. Millward

January certainly was a month full of changes...the weather was warm and then the weather was COLD! Our sign-in board changed to having the children's names on it--and the kids are starting to choose their own toy from my blue cabinet during Open Center time. They have to put that toy back before choosing another one, too. Just another one of those life skills that we keep working on...So the month just flew by, and I'll miss all those dinosaurs!

February brings us lots of adventures. We start off the month studying pets. Heaven knows I live in "pet land" with 2 dogs, 2 cats, and a gerbil! I can't wait to hear what pets live in YOUR homes! We'll talk about where pets live and what they eat...and we'll even do a Milkbone print or two. Woof! Woof!

Next we'll celebrate a week filled with Valentine activities...special headbands, heart pins, and beaded necklaces. We will exchange our Valentine cards on

February 12th. I would like each child to bring a valentine for every member of the class. May I ask a big favor of each of you? Please "address" each envelope 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.) Would anyone like to send in a special Valentine snack for the class to share?

Then comes one of my very favorite units... transportation. For two weeks we'll be discovering all sorts of information about different modes of transportation--from planes to trains to automobiles. Get on board and watch us sail our paper airplanes and do license plate rubbings. There will also be a very special field trip to visit the Virginia Department of Transportation garage in Merrifield to see all of the

different types of trucks used by the state. How cool is that? More details to follow.

The Monday 4s gang will be working with the letters D, L, V, and O. You should hear them starting to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit of this group! Mondays are definitely fun days!

Please put VIP Day on your calendar. We look forward to see your PNS student and their special grown-up on Saturday, February 21st from 10:00am to 12:00pm. And remember--no school on February 16th (Presidents' Day). Are you ready? It is going to be a very LOVE-ly month!

—Jane Millward

Fours Class with Ms. Judy

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

Now, on to February. During the month lots of fun activities have been planned for our class. Throughout the first week of February, we will have many exciting opportunities to talk about our family pets. Let me know if you would like to bring your pet for Show and Tell.

Next, we will study Love and Friendship from February 10th-13th. 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 remember to start early having your child address and sign his or her Valentine cards.

The last two weeks of February will find us discovering many different types of transportation: first from the road and rails and then from the sea and sky.

Mark your calendar. February 21st from 10:00am-12:00noon is the annual V.I.P. Day. Come and join the fun with your Very Important Person.

—Judy Goldstein



FUNDRAISERS

Valentine's Day Tea Party

**Saturday,
February 14th
10am-12noon**

Join us for snacks, juice, coffee, tea, of course, and fun crafts and games. Admission is \$10 for one adult and one child, \$5 for each additional child.

Please RSVP to Liz Claey's by February 11th, so we are sure to have enough supplies for everyone. Friends, neighbors, family, older siblings welcome to attend.

MATCHBOX®

CAR SWAP

**Saturday, March 7th
10AM-12PM**



Tickets are \$10 for one adult and one child, \$5 for each additional child. Bring two or three of your old Hot Wheels or Matchbox cars and trade with your friends! We'll provide snacks, drinks, games, and lots of fun ways to test drive your new cars.

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Our biggest fundraiser of the semester will be Friday, April 3, at the Fairfax Barnes & Noble. April 3rd will be the officially elected "Providence Nursery School Day" at the store. We will have story time, crafts, face painting, and lots of fun for kids and adults all day throughout the store. Anyone who hands in a PNS flyer with their purchase will designate a percentage of the transaction for the school. Any item in the store is eligible, including all purchases at the Starbucks Cafe. The fundraising committee will need lots of help to staff this event adequately.

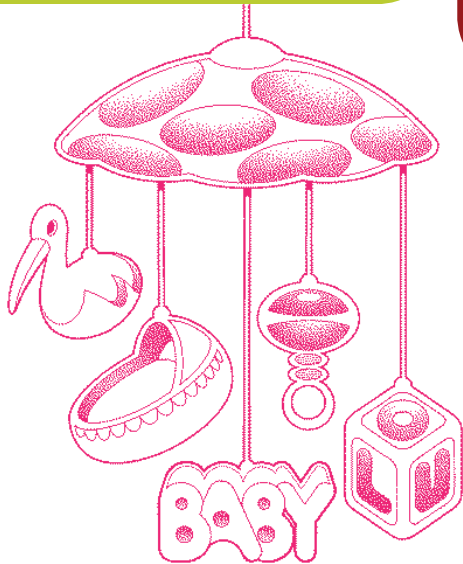
—Liz Claey's, Fundraising Chair,
Christine Clifford & Prastavna Mehta,
Fundraising Committee

SCHOOL NOTICES

POTLUCK POSTPONED



Due to a facilities scheduling conflict the PNS family potluck for February 6th is being rescheduled. Please keep a look out for the new date and information.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Durbin Family. Caitlyn Anne Durbin was born on January 24, 2009. She weighed in at 7lbs 9oz and measured 19½ inches.

Ahrens Family. Kayla Marie Ahrens was born Friday, January 23rd at 12:07am.

Clays Family. Welcome to your new baby girl Noelle.

And to any families I may have missed I apologize. I would be happy to update PNS on the new joy in your family if you would send me the info, jennlyon@verizon.net.

—Jenn Lyon, Newsletter Editor



WHEN: Saturday, February 21
10am–12pm

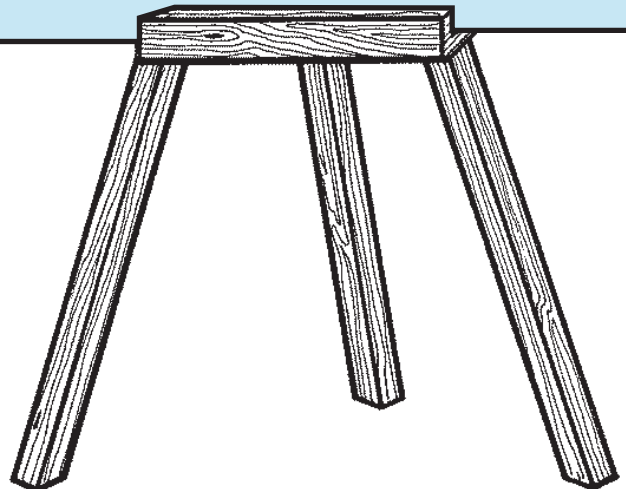
WHERE: The Big Room

WHAT: V.I.P. Day
On our annual VIP Day, your child gets to invite one Very Important Person to come visit their school with them. Our teachers have wonderful crafts and activities planned, and do look forward to meeting the honored guests. No co-oping parents, please. Not that you aren't Very Important, but we want to share the school with those don't get to come all the time!

PNS ART SHOW

**Our student art show display will be up at
The King's Park Library from
Tuesday, February 17–Saturday, March 7.**

For more info about King's Park Library please visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LIBRARY/branches/kp/



PNS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009/2010

The nominating committee is continuing to accept submissions of names for next years Executive Board thru 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, 2009 through March 30, 2010. 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.

Here is a list of the people currently holding the positions so you can contact them directly with any questions about the job.

(Co-) PRESIDENT (Robin Tingley & Kathy Van Dyke)–Responsible for the general functioning of the school, including scheduling board and membership meetings; coordinating special events; working with the Treasurer on school 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. Also helps out President as needed and can answer questions if President is not available.

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP-ENROLLMENT (Mary McLaughlin)–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 (Michael & Carolina Figueroa)–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 (Mary Handlon)–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)–Plans fundraising events for the school and directs fundraising committee.

–*The Nominating Committee*

Kathy Van Dyke, Karen Wallace, Jenn Lyon and Christine Clifford

February 18–11:30am

Harley Riders Show & Tell–The Harley Riders will relate the protective gear and safety things that they do to the need for the children to be careful and protect themselves when they ride bikes, scooters & skateboards. Children will be allowed to sit on the bikes. Parents can take photos of their children. 2's, CDO's & siblings are welcome to attend with parent.



Save the Date

**March Membership Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009
7:00pm**

Vote for your 2009-2010 board members and VCPC nominees. The meeting will be followed by the regular monthly board meeting.

For more information on becoming a board member please see the article to the left.

MAINTENANCE DAY THANK YOU!

Thank you to yet another amazing maintenance day crew. It may not be the most exciting part of the PNS experience but you would not know it from the energy all of you brought to the day. Thank you to Erik Burvis and this years maintenance committee Nuran Jeffries, Elie Rhyu and Brandon Ahrens. These folks do this for their family job. And to the parents who came for the day to meet their required cleaning, Christine Clifford, Marc MacInnis, JP Hesford, Lisa Muras, Allison McMullin, Justin Lyon, Michelle Weikert and Jarek Tuszynska. Thanks to everyone our school looked amazing for the Open House.

—Karen Wallace, VP Administration

Open House

THANK YOU!

I'd like to say thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make Open House a success! A visitor to the PNS open house said ours was the best. She mentioned that tours were well organized, everyone was incredibly friendly, and the information packets were helpful.

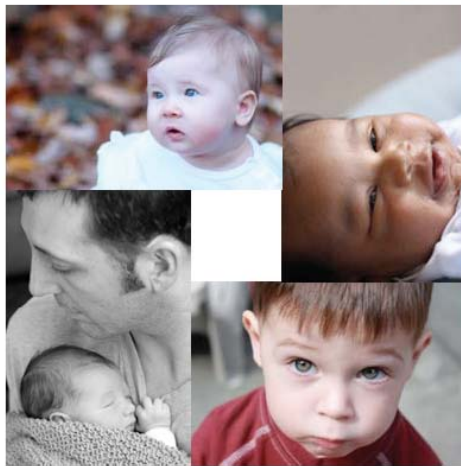
Thanks to the following people who gave up their mornings to welcome our guests and give tours: Kathy Van Dyke, Robin Tingley, Carol Ogletree, Mary Handlon, Helen Burvis, Jenn Lyon, Marissa MacInnis, Sue Bengston and Kyle Durbin.

Thank you to Emily Tuszynska and Ryan Bianchetti for providing childcare. Thank you to Chrissy The and the social committee for providing snacks. Thank you to Lisa Muras for making tons of copies and assembling our packets. Thanks to everyone who posted and told their friends about PNS. Thank you to the teachers for putting up with the interruptions this morning and showing what a great program we have at PNS. Great job everyone!

—Mary McLaughlin, VP Enrollment

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A BIG PNS THANK YOU TO...

...Michelle Weikert for putting up such a nice Bulletin Board!!

...Jenn Lyon for sewing the table apron for the fish tank.

...Leslie Herman for coordinating the volunteers for science enrichment day. This is the first time we have tried this so kudos to her.

...To the moms who helped captivate our children with their science experiments, Marissa MacInnis, Allison McMullin, Tiffany Link, Mary McLaughlin & Kate Beddall.

...Mary McLaughlin for organizing a wonderfully inviting Open House for prospective parents and for representing PNS at the Burke Preschool Fair.

...Justin and Jenn Lyon for the PNS promotion display. It looked great at the preschool fair.

...and a BIG Thanks to the church for the use of the new gym!!!

...Kate Beddall for the coordination of the parent education seminars.

...thank you to the board for the teacher bonuses and to all of PNS for the great VCPC luncheon.

...Emily Tuszynski for coordinating the VCPC luncheon.

...To the parents who we were told brought the best food ever to the VCPC luncheon.

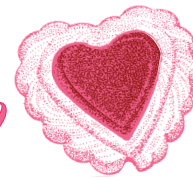
...To the class reps who did a great job organizing class presents for the teachers and aides.

...Finally to our great staff and parents for a smooth transition back to school following winter break.

To all at PNS and of course all of the 2's Class, you have been so supportive to me due to the passing of my Dad. It is a real pleasure to be surrounded by such great teachers, parents and of course the beautiful children! Much appreciation and many thanks to all for your kind words and support!

—Miss Phyllis

February 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

PETS

VALENTINE'S
DAY TEA PARTY
10am-12pm

Board Meeting 7:30PM

LOVE/FRIENDSHIP

President's Day
NO SCHOOL

Harley Riders
Show & Tell
at 11:30am

VIP Day
10am-12pm

TRANSPORTATION-LAND

TRANSPORTATION-AIR & SEA

DR. SEUSS

February 18-11:30am

Harley Riders Show & Tell-The Harley Riders will relate the protective gear and safety things that they do to the need for the children to be careful and protect themselves when they ride bikes, scooters and skateboards. Children will be allowed to sit on the bikes. Parents can take photos of their children. 2's, CDO's and siblings are welcome to attend with parent.