

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 6

February 2012

A Letter from Kelly...

February is here, and it finally feels like winter (at least it did when I wrote this letter). Although my family has been looking forward to all the fun that comes with a big snowfall, it's been nice not having any school delays or closings yet this year. In the event that we do experience some winter weather, please remember to tune into your local news, check your email for updates, and also review our inclement weather dismissal policy.

I hope you've all been staying cozy and warm and the kids are finding ways to keep themselves busy indoors. If you are looking for something different and fun to do in February, be sure to stop by the PNS art show at Kings Park Library. Our teachers have chosen some of our kids' most prized creations to be on display for all to see. It's fun to see the looks of pride and accomplishment on the kids' faces as they notice other people noticing their work. This year's art show will run from February 4th through February 29th. The art is displayed in the children's section of the library. It's a great family outing for a cold day, and best of all...it's free!

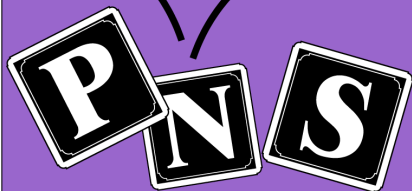


Another fun event takes place at PNS at the end of the month. VIP day will be held on February 25 beginning at 10:00 am. This is an "open house" type of event that gives our kiddos a chance to show off their school to someone special in their lives. Our teachers work hard on this event and always look forward to meeting new family members and friends. The kids love it!

It's hard to imagine now, but spring will be here before we know it. It's the season of change and there is no exception at PNS! Our nominating committee for the 2012 - 2013 Executive Board has been hard at work. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Rachel Heffron, Abbie Park or myself as soon as possible. The slate for next year's board will be presented at this month's board meeting on Monday, February 13th. The group of nominees will be voted in at our mandatory membership meeting on Monday, March 12th and will spend a few weeks in transition. All official tasks and responsibilities will be assumed by the new board at our April board meeting on Monday, April 9th.

As always, there is much to be excited about throughout our school. It seems something new is happening all the time, giving our families a chance to come together and allowing our kids to experience so much more than preschool. We would not be able to make any of this happen without the backing and support each of you provides in so many ways. We've had a great first half of the school year and are looking toward the second half with much anticipation and excitement!

Kelly



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Mark your Calendar

Saturday, February 4
Art Show at Kings Park
Library Begins

Wednesday, February 8
Enrichment with Bob Brown
Puppets

Thursday, February 9
9:45 am - Parent Ed - Dr. Rene
Hackney discusses Preschooler
Self-Esteem

Saturday, February 11
8:30 am Clean-up & Maint.
Day

Monday, February 13
6:30 pm - Parent Ed - Ruth
Klimpl with Child Find
7:30 pm - Board Meeting

Monday, February 20
NO SCHOOL - President's Day

Saturday, February 25
10 am - 12 pm - VIP Day

Wednesday, February 29 -
Enrichment with Heart & Soul
Yoga & the last day of the Art
Show

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February 20th for March's issue.

CDO & 2s

So what do I have planned for my young friends this month? Our theme for the first two weeks of February will be zoo animals. We'll make paper plate elephants and giraffes in art.

We'll play a game of charades- pretending to be different animals and trying to guess what animal Mrs. B will be. We'll also build our own zoo with blocks. Although it might be cold, this is a great time of year for visiting the National Zoo.



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 13th we'll exchange valentines in the CDO (Friday CDOers are welcome to join us from 9:30-10:30 for our Vday activities!) and on February 14th we'll exchange valentines in the 2s class. 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 cards, take the time to look at how your child is using his hands. When it comes to 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. Here are 5 things I would like you to think about regarding gross and fine motor skills this month.

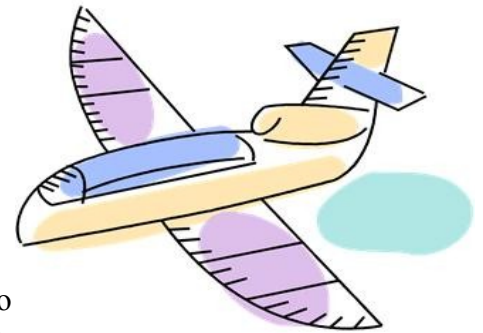
1. Look out for W sitting- It's bad for knees. Encourage students to sit criss cross apple sauce or like a pretzel.
2. Encourage students to use a helping hand to stabilize the paper whenever they are drawing.
3. Pay attention to which hand your child uses the most. Children usually pick a dominant hand (ie left handed or right handed) by age 4 or 5.
4. Pay attention to how your child holds a pencil or marker. The ultimate goal is for them to have a

tripod grip at the bottom of the pencil. An easy way to prompt this is to use small golf size pencils, broken crayons or chalk.

5. Drawing while standing up (such as at a chalk board or easel) helps build arm strength.

Our theme for the week of February 20th 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!

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 25th 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 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

3s

January 2012 is history, but we have some good things to remember about it. We enjoyed one of the best themes of the year (Dinosaurs!), our new friend, Daniel, joined the gang and everybody came back from the winter break with new maturity and confidence. Now we're ready to move forward with a new month of fun and accomplishments.

To start off the month, we'll have a review of Shapes. We know a lot of shapes already, but we'll add some unusual ones just to keep things interesting! 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. Since we have a couple of days left over in the week with Valentine's Day, we'll experiment a little with some other things that attract – Magnets! The last two weeks of the month will be devoted to Land Transportation and Sea and Air Transportation. 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 get the bikes out on Wednesdays.



On the 25th everyone is invited to bring a VIP (someone who doesn't usually coop – a parent, relative or special grown-up friend) to VIP Day. It's an open house of fun crafts and activities from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Big Room. You won't want to miss it!

Miss Susan

3/4s

So it's February already...and we are gearing up for a short, but 'love'-ly month.

This group of kids is charged up and ready to go...first we're off to talk about Groundhog's Day and Terrific Teeth starting the week of February 1st. 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. Next comes the week of February 6th 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 Tuesday, February 14th. 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 on the 14th?



The week of the 13th also 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!

Starting February 21st, we will shift gears (literally and figuratively!) and discover all sorts of information about construction vehicles. In fact, there will be a very special field trip to expand upon this topic on Thursday, 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, B, 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 13th (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 25th from 10:00-12:00. More details will follow.

Are you ready...it is going to be quite a month!

Jane

4s

Wow!!!! The first month of the New Year has slipped by so fast. We loved roaring like dinosaurs. Wow!! 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 7th-10th. Many heart shaped craft projects will come home that week. On February 14th, 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 25th from 10-noon is the annual VIP Day. Come and join the fun with your Very Important Person.

Judy

Parent Education

Thanks to all those who signed-up for the speech screenings and attended our Parent Education events. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please do send them along. I'd really appreciate any and all feedback.

Thank you all who participated in our January Parent Ed Stress Management Seminar! If you have questions for the presenter do send them to me, abbiepark@hotmail.com, and I'll get Lisa Byrne to answer them for you!

Here are three more opportunities to complete your four required Parent Education hours!

Thursday, February 9th @ 9:45 AM Dr. Rene Hackney will 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. Rene is happy to answer them all! This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall upstairs in the Church. Infants and toddlers are welcome at this event only.



Monday, February 13th @ 6:30 PM, Ruth Klimpl, an Early Childhood Special Education specialist with Fairfax County Public School's Child Find, is coming to speak 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. Don't forget the Board meeting will follow directly after this talk and attending will give you a volunteer hour!

Wednesday, March 21st @ 7 PM Join Maureen Bush, a PNS alumna parent and Fairfax County teacher for an interactive conversation about kindergarten, the next phase of your child's life. She wants your questions! Please send your questions about the kindergarten experience directly to Maureen at, Maureen.Bush@fcps.edu.

PNS Students Have a Heart for Art!

Get a much needed reprieve from the chilly temperatures outside by taking a family outing to Kings Park Library (located on Burke Lake Road) sometime between February 4th and the 29th. The PNS Art Show is sure to warm your hearts! Each PNS student has prepared a special piece of art to be displayed in the cozy children's section of the library. Your budding artists will be so proud to share their creations with you! They will surely feel like a star having their work on display for all to see! Please check the library's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp> for directions and hours of operation. Please note that Kings Park Library is closed on Sundays.



Wonderful Wednesdays!

This month we have two fantastic enrichment activities scheduled. On Wednesday February 8th at 11:30 am Bob Brown Puppets will present "The Snow Show" in the Fellowship Hall. Then on Wednesday, February 29th



there will be a Yoga class in the gym with Heart and Soul Yoga (see description below). We will have the 3s at 11am and 3/4s & 4s at about 11:40am. Any CDO's or 2's wishing to attend are asked to join the 3's at 11am so we have enough mats and appropriate instruction.

Heart and Soul Yoga (Corinne Krill and Mary Beth Quick) enjoy sharing their love and passion for Yoga with kids of all ages. Corinne (RYT-300) trained under Shakta Khalsa in her Radiant Child Yoga program. Mary Beth is an Early Childhood Certified Teacher and a Kids' Yoga Teacher trained through YoKids. Using games, stories, imagination, laughter and music we will support children through their learning of poses, relaxation techniques, breathing and more. Check out their website at <http://heartandsoulyogava.com/>

You will be seeing more of Heart and Soul Yoga beginning in March when our spring **after-school** enrichment activity begins. Corinne and Mary Beth will be back to lead an eight week yoga program following lunch bunch on Wednesdays. More details and enrollment forms will be emailed soon.

Notary Needed

If you are a notary or know someone who is, please contact Angie VonAncken (avonancken@gmail.com). We need your help getting forms notarized at this year's Spring Coffee on April 30th. Volunteer hours will be given!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Participate in an extra Clean Up & Maintenance Day on Saturday, February 11th.
- Attend the February Board Meeting on February 13th at 7:30 pm (immediately following the Parent Education Speaker at 6:30 pm)

VCPC Awards!

The Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council will be accepting nominations for VCPC member schools' parents whose commitment over the past year has been superior. Perhaps you can think of someone whose contribution has been substantial and nominate him or her for this award.



The nomination process will begin at the February board meeting, with the PNS's final parent nominee to be selected at the March board meeting. Nomination forms will be available on the sign-in tables and by e-mail to etuszynska@gmail.com.

Please nominate a parent who made a significant difference in one particular area or in the school as a whole. For example, someone who ...

- Expended extra time and energy in improving the school program, library, etc.
- Led major fundraising efforts thereby providing the school financial support to accomplish goals.
- Took the lead in physical improvements to the building or playground.
- Created a classroom environment of exceptional creativity.

All nominations must be received by noon on the day of the March board meeting. Thank you all for your help!

-Emily Tuszynska, VCPC Representative

Clean-up and Maintenance Days

There are only 2 left!

If you have not attended your required clean-up/maintenance day(s), you only have two chances left. Please make plans to attend our next one on Saturday, February 11 from 8:30am – 12:30pm. If you can't make it then, the final

one for this school year will be held on Saturday, April 28. Please contact Ryan Bianchetti, VP of Administration, to sign-up or if you have any questions.



Mark your Calendar

Monday, March 13th at 7:30 – Mandatory Membership Meeting. A representative from all current PNS families are required to attend to vote in the new Executive Board. The monthly board meeting will follow.

Saturday, March 24th - Our Annual Spring Fundraiser - ROCKNOCEROS concert. In conjunction with the



concert, we will be holding a small raffle. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for raffle items or businesses that we could solicit.

Parent donations are always welcome - items, gift certificates, tickets to events, services (babysitting, cake decorating, crafts, hand-made jewelry). Classes or groups of parents are encouraged (not required!) to put together a themed basket with inexpensive items. In the past, we have had cooking baskets, kid craft supplies, home movie night stuff, beauty care items for moms, etc. All donations are very much appreciated, and one hundred percent of the money raised by the raffle goes to the school.

Parent Surveys

Keep an eye on your in-boxes for your parent surveys. The surveys are done electronically and will only take a couple of minutes to complete. These surveys provide important feedback about our school. It is a fantastic opportunity to have your voice heard, so don't miss out!



Summer Camp

During June, some of the teachers will be leading a “summer camp” experience for our little ones. The emphasis is on fun, with a different theme each week. On Wednesdays – weather permitting – we will set up pools and sprinklers for the kids to splash in! Come join us for songs, games, arts and crafts, stories, and learning through play.

Space is limited! Registration will run until all classes are filled. We will notify you of class placement by April 16th. Tuition is due in full by May 1st. Total program tuition is non-refundable.

Summer Program registrations for in-house applications will be accepted February 6th – February 10th.

SESSION I: May 29th – June 8th

SESSION II: June 11th – June 22nd

There is a \$40 registration fee due with your registration form. Look for the registration forms in your PNSALL emails on February 1st or on our website

(<http://www.providencenurseryschool.com/summer.jsp>). If you have any questions, see the details on the website or contact camp Co-Directors Allison Hagner and Abigail Park through summerschool@providencenurseryschool.com.



Merci! Gracias! Toda! Mahalo! Kam sam nida! Gratzie! Thank You!

Thank you to Emmy Cade for all the hard work she put into our Open House. Thank you also to all those who volunteered at the Open House: Angie VonAncken, Dawn Ahrens, Abbie Park, Emily Tuszynska, Jennifer Mack, Kelly Volciak, Morgan Trotter, Prassu Mehta, Sue Bengston, Kyle Durbin, and Terri Radziewski. From conducting tours and answering questions to providing snacks to baby-sitting, you all did a terrific job representing our school. Thank you to SueLynn McAndrew for organizing the Art Show at Kings Park Library. Thank you to Liz Assante for the lovely homemade play-dough she provides for us each week. Thank you to Emily Tuszynska for organizing last month's VCPC luncheon and to all those who contributed dishes. Thanks once again to Abbie and Mike Park for another fantastic round of parent education opportunities.

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 	3	4 Art Show begins at Kings Park Library
5	6 7:30 pm – Board Mtg in the Big Rm	7	8 Enrichment- Bob Brown Puppets	9 9:45 – Parent Ed - Dr. Rene Hackney on Preschooler Self-Esteem	10	11 8:30 am – 12:30 pm – Clean-up & Maintenance Day
12	13 6:30 – Parent Ed with Ruth Klimpl with Child Find 7:30 pm – Board Mtg in the Big Rm	14  Happy Valentines Day!	15	16	17	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day Holiday	21	22	23	24	25 10 am - 12 pm – VIP Day
26	27 	28	29 Last day of the Art Show at Kings Park Library Enrichment-Heart & Soul Yoga			