



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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The Providence Pages

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2010

A Letter from Jennifer...

Happy New year!! Welcome back after the long (especially with the extra snow days!) holiday break. Is it really 2010? I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a happy new year! Our family had a fun and busy break as we spent a lot of time preparing for our decision to move back to Seattle.

At PNS it is already time to register for the 2010-11 school year. In-house registration forms are due by Friday, January 8 to Helen Burvis, VP of Membership-Enrollment.

As always it is the goal of PNS to accommodate your class choices according to the guidelines in the PNS manual; however several factors, including class size, gender composition and teacher recommendations affect the final class assignments. Please be patient with us during this process; it takes a lot of effort and time to try and work out all the details. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask Helen or myself.

New class rosters for continuing families will be completed and sent out by mid to late February. Open House for new students interested in PNS will take place on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 from 10:00am to 12 noon, while school is in session. Please encourage your friends or colleagues who are looking for a preschool to attend the Open House!

We will be forming a nominating committee at the January board meeting to look for volunteers to be on the Executive Board (E-board) for 2010. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee to help form next years E-board please let me know. If you are interested in any position, contact any current

board member or someone on the committee for more information (I will send a *pnsall* to announce the committee once it is formed). The E-Board is a great way to get more involved in the school, meet new parents, and take part in important school decisions. I volunteered to be on the E-board to be more involved with my children's preschool and in turn I ended up with an experience that I will list on my resume.



For our Summer Camp program, I am pleased to announce Marta Davis as the Camp Director. Look for more Summer Camp information to come out in the next month!

As you all know the cold and flu season is alive and well and although we have not had an outbreak at PNS recently please don't forget to wash your child's hands or use hand sanitizer before dropping them off at school. Encouraging them to wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and to "catch" their coughs and sneezes in a tissue or their elbow is an important step towards stopping the spread of germs. Also you can review the illness policy in your PNS handbook for more information. We are watching out for all the school's children and need your continued cooperation to keep our school healthy.

2010 is going to be a great year as we continue to work together here at PNS on behalf of our kids.

—Jennifer Lyon, PNS Board President 2009-2010

**PNS IN-HOUSE
 REGISTRATION
 FORMS AND \$75
 FEE ARE DUE ON
 JANUARY 8TH!**



**PNS OPEN HOUSE
 JANUARY
 20TH
 10AM- 12PM**

E-BOARD/ 2010/2011

We're looking for volunteers to be on the nominating committee for the election of the 2010-2011 PNS executive board. If you would like to help find the nominees for the next year's e-board, we would appreciate your time and energy. During January and February you would be asked to speak with individuals either in person, by phone or via email to line up the PNS board nominees for next year. Nominees will be voted on at our March board meeting. If you are interested, please let me know before the January board meeting, when the members of the nominating committee will be announced. Thank you.

—Jenn Lyon, PNS Board President 2009-2010



—Weekly themes—

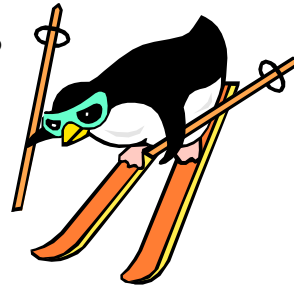
1/4: Gloves/scarves
1/11: Penguins/ Black & White
1/18: Dinosaurs/ Purple
1/25: Stars

CDO & 2s

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome back to school! I hope your winter break was filled with special moments and memories of your children that you have tucked away. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I'm ready for the calm of the winter months.

Of course, here at PNS, the pace never slows, so we'll jump right into the New Year by talking about winter and dressing for the weather.

The first week back to school, we'll transform PNS into a winter wonderland. Mrs. B loves winter and snow (I lived in Boston for 7 years). Lots of great songs and books accompany this theme. We'll read Jan Brett's *The Hat* and *The Jacket I wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel. Ice cube painting, and mitten fold-overs will be some of our art activities. Of course we'll also plough shaving cream-covered roads and paint snow scenes with Epsom salts. So LET IT SNOW!

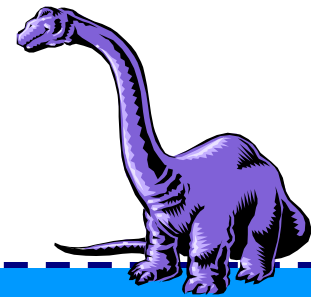


AND THEN...dinosaurs will be roaming around PNS for two weeks. This is usually a very popular theme. We'll follow some dino prints to a nest with eggs. I wonder what might hatch..... We'll make prehistoric headbands and paint rocks. Be prepared to hear lots of dino-sized roars!

At the end of the month we'll talk about night time and the stars. We'll try painting with stencils— messy but fun. Of course we'll sing "Twinkle

Twinkle Little Star". Obie will even show us his pajamas!

—Mrs. B



—Weekly themes—

1/4: Winter
1/11: Winter
1/18: Dinosaurs
1/25: Dinosaurs

3s

Welcome back!! I hope you all had a wonderful, extra-long holiday break and are ready for 2010. It's always interesting to see how much the children "grow up" during that break, even though it's only a short period of time. Everyone seems to come back ready to play with friends and try new things.

We'll get the new year started with some Wintery Fun. If the weather cooperates we can investigate the science of freezing and thawing. If it doesn't, we can make up for it with our own winter fun indoors. We'll help the birds by making Cheerios feeders and get the bird houses ready for Spring with a new coat of paint. Mitten matching and indoor snowman building will keep us busy, too. The other theme of the month is so huge it needs two weeks – DINOSAURS! They will be all over the school – stomping across the art table, peeking out of the books, climbing our "dinosaur mountain" and lurking in the sensory table. What's not to love about those terrible lizards!?

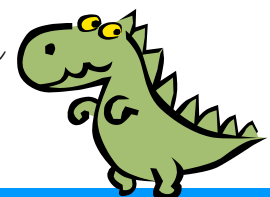
There are three noteworthy events coming up this month. On January 13th and 15th. I will set aside

time for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This will give us a few uninterrupted moments to talk about your children, how they are doing and goals for the rest of the year. I'll put a sign-up sheet near the check-in so you can get this on your calendars. Then on Wednesday the 20th, PNS will hold its annual Open House to show off our school to prospective families for next year. We will have a normal school day while our visitors come see all the great stuff we do! On Friday the 22nd, a speech pathologist will be available at school to listen to your child. If you have any concerns about speech issues, this is an easy way to get a preliminary report and recommendations, if needed.

Remember to send hats, scarves and mittens (better than gloves) in case we get to use the playground. We'll keep our fingers crossed for that!

So welcome back and Happy New Year!!

—Miss Susan



3/4s

Happy New Year--and welcome 2010! Brrr...cold weather is here and we will be off to a fast and furious start with a unit of wintery fun (as if we haven't seen enough of that cold, white stuff!).

This theme will be a basis for several science explorations using water, ice, and snow. Each child will discover what makes this season so unique...and fun! We'll build snowmen made of marshmallows and do some snowflake rubbings. Then we'll talk about polar animals. Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. And the art work will be very exciting and glittery! During the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. Yes, we will don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to the painting of our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high.

Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 13th, and Thursday, January 14th. I will meet with each of you for about 15 minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, a sign-up sheet will be on our table for you to choose a conference time. Also please remember that we WILL continue to go outside each day that the weather permits. So please don't forget to send in those hats and mittens every day. And lastly, please get out those beautiful new 2010 calendars and mark down the days that we will NOT be in school during January: the 18th (MLK Day), the 29th and February 1st (FCPS holidays). PNS Open House will take place on Wednesday, January 20th – but we will be in session and having a normal school day.

There will be a couple of classroom management changes this month. The sign-in board and shapes have been retired. I'm trying a new system of welcoming the children to our classroom. As they enter and I greet them at the doorway, there will be a "Question of the Day" for each child to answer. They will find their name on the chartboard and "answer" the question on the chart by moving their name.

I saw this used at the NAEYC Conference in November, and the kids really "get into" the questions. At circletime, we will look at our answers to the daily question. This activity serves two purposes: the students must recognize their names to "vote" and then each child must make an individual decision about a specific question. I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the cabinet!) instead of me making the choice. They will take the toy to play, and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. It is one more way for this group to become independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of each of them! Children can become frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/herself when leaving home. Allow extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills.

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters O(1/4), P(1/11), and D(1/25). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use; their prereading skills are terrific. And they are having lots of FUN doing it!

WOW—what a month! If you have any questions or concerns about your child or my program, please call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is and how his/her skills are developing. Stay tuned...

—Mrs. Millward



—Weekly Themes—

1/4: Snow & Mittens

1/11: Winter

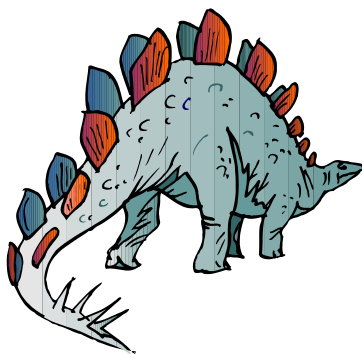
1/18: Dinosaurs

1/25: Dinosaurs

4s

Happy New Year everyone! I wish you all peace, happiness and health for the New Year.

As I write this article, I'm looking out my window watching the beauty of this year's first major snowfall. I'm imagining my little friends being ever so excited and having a great time playing outdoors. OK, so now I will have a huge challenge to top this since our first weeks' unit of study will be Fun with Snow. Hopefully indoor winter play with ice cubes, building paper snow people and sipping hot chocolate will keep everyone's hats from blowing in the wind as we explore this wintry unit of study.



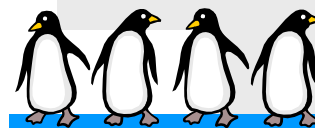
planned. I will also be holding parent conferences on Tuesday, January 12th. A sign-up sheet will be posted when we return to school after New Year.

We will close the month of January with the much loved unit on Dinosaurs.

We will become Big and Brawny and roar really loud into "The land before time began".

Spread the news that the Open House and sign-up for fall is on January 20th.

—Ms. Judy



—Weekly Themes—

1/4: Fun with Snow

1/11: Polar animals

1/18: Dinosaurs

1/25: Dinosaurs

Polar Animals will be the focus for January 12th -16th. Lots of Polar Bear and Penguin activities have been

NOTICES

REGISTRATION/ 2010-2011

January 8, 2010

Registration forms for returning families are due, along with \$75 registration fee.

January 20, 2010/ 10AM– 12PM

OPEN HOUSE. Enrollment for new PNS families begins. (If you have any friends or neighbors who might be interested in our preschool, please invite them to stop by.

Volunteers are still needed for OPEN HOUSE to give tours of the school or provide childcare (for parents with young kids on tour).

Contact me if you have any questions or would like to help out at the Open House.

—Helen Burvis, VP of Enrollment
703-978-1575/ eburvis@verizon.net

PARENT/ TEACHER CONFERENCES

Sign-up sheets for this month's conferences will be posted outside each classroom.

3S class— January 13th & 15th

3/4S class— January 13th & 14th

4S class— January 12th



JANUARY ENRICHMENT — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH/ 11:30AM
BOB BROWN PUPPETS PRESENTS "A SNOW SHOW"

Join Master Puppeteer Bob Brown in a jolly, fun-filled romp through a winter wonderland as his delightful, trick marionettes perform incredible feats of skill and daring that will leave your young audience shouting with laughter! Fun and fantasy – mirth and merriment, giggles and amazement all mixed together to the sound of your favorite holiday music! All ages. —Leslie Herman

VOLUNTEER!

Here are opportunities and ideas for this month:

- Two volunteers are still needed to sub for lunch bunch on Wednesday, January 6th, so that the teachers can attend the VCPC luncheon.
- Attend the Board Meeting (January 11th)
- Contribute food or help with set-up/ clean-up at the VCPC luncheon.
- Help with Open House on January 20th. Contact Helen Burvis.

—Karen Wallace

P.S. Next Maintenance Day is scheduled for Saturday, February, 13th.

FUNDRAISING

ROCKNOCEROS Concert & Raffle



Friday night, FEBRUARY 26th

Providence Fellowship Hall

Please let me know if you have any suggestions about places we could ask for raffle donations, i.e. stores, restaurants, vendors. Personal connections are helpful but not necessary. Thanks! —Liz Claes

NOTICES

YOGA

BEGINS JANUARY 13TH

WEDNESDAYS/ 1:45-2:15

Yoga is about to begin! Please have your forms and payment turned in by January 6th

This 8-week program is open to all students in 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes, regardless if they are in lunch bunch or not. Cost is \$86 per child (non-refundable once the session starts), and PNS reserves the right to cancel the class if a minimum of 10 children is not met.



WANTED:



FOOD DONATIONS!

PNS is hosting the VCPC teachers' luncheon on Wednesday, January 6th. Help is still needed to put on this event. If you can contribute a dish, or assist with set-up or clean-up, please sign up on the sheets posted to both outside doors, or contact Emily Tuszyńska.

Speech Screenings

Friday, January 22nd/ 10am-12pm

Katherine Moore, a licensed speech-language pathologist, is coming to PNS to provide voluntary speech screenings to students ages 3 and up, although parents of younger children who have questions are also welcome to sign up and discuss with her more informally. The cost is \$10/child.

—Maureen Cushman



IN-CLASS EVALUATIONS

Our teacher's bi-yearly in-class evaluations will be taking place on Thursday, January 7 in the 3/4s class and in the 2s class. Then on Friday, January 8 in the 4s class and 3s class. These are short 20 minute sessions where family therapist Dr. Charmaine Ciardi will sit in and observe the teacher within her class but will not interact with the teacher or the children. Afterwards she will meet individually with each teacher about what she observed. Should you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with me at jennlyon@verizon.net or at 703-273-2098.

—Jenn Lyon

Parent Education

February 25th

Dr. Charmaine Ciardi, a licensed family therapist, will speak at PNS.

Location TBD.

—Maureen Cushman

BULLETINS

If you have made a donation to PNS that you did not seek a reimbursement for over the past year, you might be eligible for a tax deduction being that PNS is a 501(3)c. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me directly at jennlyon@verizon.net.

—Jenn Lyon.

! NO SCHOOL !

Note that there is no school on Monday, January 18th (Martin Luther King Day), and Friday, January 29th and Monday, February 1st (FCPS holidays).

Thanks to those who participated in the Constructive Playthings, fundraiser which raised about \$300, and Barnes & Noble Day, which raised almost \$900!

—Liz Claeys

Thank you...

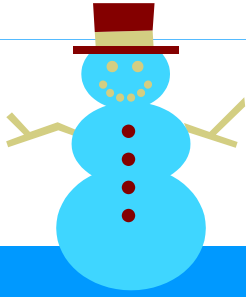
...to Liz Claeys, Christine Clifford, Prassu Mehta, the PNS teachers, Mrs. Healy and volunteers Marta Davis, Emily Tuszynska & SueLynn who helped make Barnes & Noble day so much fun. Again to our hardworking fundraising team for organizing our wonderful holiday shop and to all the elves who helped our kids. Thank you to Emily Tuszynska for overseeing the VCPC Fall Forum and for running between the meeting and the 3/4s brunch. Thank you to our field trip reps, Jeewon Kim in the 3/4s, Maureen Bush in the 3s and Marissa MacInnis in the 4s for all the work you have put in to make sure your classes have some great experiences outside of the classroom. Thank you to Ann-Marie Ward for organizing this year's PNS holiday party and to the whole Millward family for hosting the annual event in their home. Thank you to Kati Hesford for arranging the holiday giving project and canned food drive.

—Jenn Lyon

Thank you to all the generous families who supported the Holiday Tree Project. The three families we sponsored were thrilled and very thankful for all of the great presents and gift cards.

—Kati Hesford





JANUARY 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 	2
3 	4 Back to school!	5 	6 VCPC Teacher Luncheon	7	8 In-House Registration Ends	9
10	11 PNS BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM	12 4s Parent/ Teacher Conferences	13 Bob Brown Puppets 11:30 AM 3s & 3/4s Parent/ Teacher Conferences	14 3/4s Parent/ Teacher Conferences	15 3s Parent/ Teacher Conferences	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day	19	20 PNS OPEN HOUSE 10 AM—12 PM	21	22 Speech Screening 10 AM—12 PM	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday	30
31	1 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday					