

# The Providence Pages

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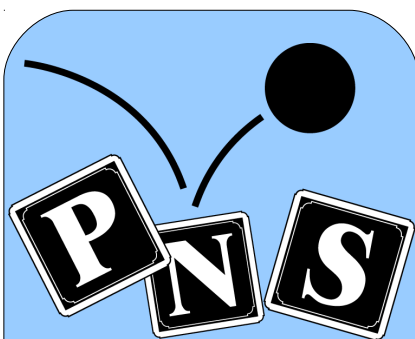
## *A Letter from Marta...*

Happy New Year! New Years is a special time in the Davis house. Aside from the usual New Year's resolutions and toasts we enjoy steaming bowls of my mother-in-law's homemade Manduguk (Korean Dumpling Soup) for good luck. All of my in-laws come to eat. It is one of my most favorite meals and I wait all year for New Year's Day to have it. Halmoni, my mother-in-law always arrives early with a giant stainless steel pot and a mountain of groceries. She gets quickly to work chopping veggies, boiling rice patties and folding her amazing dumplings. The soup is a labor of love. The dumplings alone can take hours. There is always a great deal of chatting and laughing and we all push our way into my tiny kitchen to help. Making this soup is as much apart of our tradition as eating it. It always reminds me to stop and take time to enjoy my family. The long process gives me lots of time to reflect on the past year and mentally prepare for the busy new one. It is truly a lovely way to begin the New Year... and a yummy one too!

The New Year is a busy time for PNS. We jump back into school on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** and immediately begin enrolling students for the 2012-2013 school year. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 by 12:30pm**. If you are

enrolling your children in PNS again next year it is essential that you do not miss this deadline as we close in-house registration and begin accepting applications from returning and church families. Our annual Open House will be held on **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**, and is a tremendous volunteer opportunity. For many prospective parents and students this is the very first interaction they will have with PNS. You can volunteer in many ways – by giving tours and answering questions, by helping set-up or clean-up or simply by babysitting. We'll take all the help we can get! To volunteer contact Emmy Cade, VP of Enrollment.

This January we are also actively seeking parents to serve on next year's Board of Directors. This is an incredible opportunity to participate in the management of our school. Serving on the board these last three years has been an extremely interesting and rewarding thing for me personally. I am pretty sure I know every square inch of the school from the top to the bottom. I've gotten to know the parents and teachers in ways I never could have had I taken on another family job. PNS is an amazing school. Our parents and staff are truly some of the most committed and creative people I've ever had the opportunity to work with. I am so thankful that I took the leap and joined the board. There is a great deal of turnover on the board this year and if you are interested and act quickly you can pretty much have your pick of jobs! If you have any questions please contact myself or Kelly Volciak.



### **PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL**

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### **Mark your Calendar**

Tuesday, January 3  
School Resumes

Friday, January 6  
In-House Enrollment Forms  
& Registration Fee Due by  
12:30 p.m.

Monday, January 9  
PNS Board Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Jan 10th – 4s
- Jan 11th & 13th – 3s
- Jan 11th & 12th – 3/4s

Monday, January 16  
No School -  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 18  
PNS Open House 10am–  
noon (school in session)

Monday, January 30 &  
Tuesday January 31  
No School - FCPS Holiday

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*Marta*

## 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 Shirly Neitzel. Ice cube painting, and mitten fold-overs will be some of our art activities. Of course we'll also plow shaving cream covered roads and paint snow scenes with Epsom salts. So LET IT SNOW!

We'll study penguins during the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll see if our penguins can slide down ramps we make from blocks. We'll publish our own penguin

books and build our hand strength while feeding fish to Mrs. B's tennis ball penguin.

Then 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. We'll make pictures with star stickers. This week Obie will show us his pajamas!

At the end of the month, dinosaurs will be roaming around PNS. This is always 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. Be prepared to hear lots of dino-sized roars!

Your child is making strides in understanding early math concepts. He is beginning to rote count the numbers one to ten. We're counting forwards and backwards during our lineup song every day. We've also worked extensively (and playfully) on matching. We've talked about how things are the same and different. In January we'll sort things into categories and talk about what belongs and what doesn't belong in a group.

*Mrs. B*

## 3s

Welcome back!! I hope you are all ready for 2012. It's always interesting to see how much the children "grow up" over the holiday break, even though it's only a short period of time. Everyone seems to come back ready to learn 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 art indoors. Then we will talk about Animals that love Winter Weather. I don't just mean my big, white dog! Polar bears and penguins will be in our books and songs. The last 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!?

Two other important events occur in January. I will set aside time on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 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 out soon. Then on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, 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!

So welcome back and Happy New Year!! (Think snow)

*Miss Susan*



3/4s

Happy New Year...and welcome 2012! 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 provides us with a basis for several science explorations using water, ice, and snow. Each child will discover what makes this season so unique...and fun! Then we're off to 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. This unit is always a favorite.

FYI: Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a time when 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, I will place a sign-up sheet on our table for you to make your choice of conference time. Also please remember that we WILL continue to go outside each day that the weather permits. That beautiful playground is fun – even when it is cold outside. So please don't forget to send in those hats and mittens every Providence day. And lastly, please get out those beautiful new 2012 calendars and mark down the days that we will NOT be in school during January...the 16<sup>th</sup>(MLK Day), the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> ...both FCPS holidays. PNS Open House will take place on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – but we will be in session and having a normal school day.



There will be a couple of classroom management

changes during this month. The sign-in board and shapes have been retired for this year. There will be a new system of welcoming the children to our classroom.



As they enter the classroom, there will be a "Question of the Day" for each child to answer. They will find their name on the chartboard and respond to the question on the chart by moving their name. Then during our 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 first thing 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 for them. They will take the toy to the table or floor 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 more 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 by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/her self when leaving home. Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters O I(1/9) and D(1/23). 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!

*Jane*

4s

O.K. you all must know by know how much I enjoy the heat and sun – so getting your children and myself excited about January’s winter activities becomes a real challenge. The thoughts of beautiful snowflakes, snowmen and sipping hot chocolate can warm the heart and soul even in the cruelest throws of winter. If we actually do get some of that wet, fluffy, white stuff, it really will be fun to watch my little ones play outdoors. If that doesn’t happen, we will still feel oh so cold – playing with ice cubes. Come on! I’m really trying here! Frosty the Snowman and snow-people craft activities will keep everyone’s hat from blowing away in the wind as we explore our unit of study Wintery Fun.

Next, we will have a midyear review. We will be practicing number and letter recognition, following directions and using our listening skills. I will be holding conferences on January 10<sup>th</sup>.



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”.

I wish everyone in the Providence family a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Judy*

## 2012-2013 Registration

Don't forget to turn in your application form and registration fee by 12:30pm on Friday January 6 for all returning families.

We need your help! If you can volunteer at the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday January 12 or the Open House on Wednesday January 18, please contact Emmy Cade: [emmycade@yahoo.com](mailto:emmycade@yahoo.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer to sub for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, Jan 4 from 12:30 - 1:30. Contact Ryan Bianchetti ([rdbianchetti@gmail.com](mailto:rdbianchetti@gmail.com))
- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, Jan 9 at 7:30.
- Volunteer to help at the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday January 12 from 10 am to noon. Contact Emmy Cade ([emmycade@yahoo.com](mailto:emmycade@yahoo.com))
- Volunteer to help at the PNS Open House on Wednesday, Jan 18 from 10:00 - 12:00. Contact Emmy Cade ([emmycade@yahoo.com](mailto:emmycade@yahoo.com))
- Volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year's board. Non-board members needed and earn two volunteer hours for their time. Contact Kelly Volciak or Marta Davis for information. ([kellyvolciak@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyvolciak@yahoo.com), [mrsd1977@gmail.com](mailto:mrsd1977@gmail.com))

## Fundraising

Join us at the PNS Big Room on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> for the Matchbox Swap! The event runs from 10:30 til noon. Admission will be \$5 per child, payable at the door. However, please let us know by the 18th if you are planning to come, so we can plan snacks and crafts accordingly. Friends, siblings, and neighbors are welcome. We will have light snacks, water, car themed crafts and games, and you will go home with some "new" Matchbox cars. **PLEASE HAVE EACH CHILD BRING TWO MATCHBOX OR HOT WHEELS CARS TO SWAP.** This ensures that every child gets a good choice for trading. Cars do not need to be new. Questions? Contact Liz Claeys or Prassu Mehta.

## 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.

## Wonderful Wednesday!



Funtastic Fitness will be returning to PNS on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> to exercise our kids in the gym. Please watch for emails closer to that date confirming the exact time.

## ◆◆◆ Thank You! ◆◆◆

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee: Prassu Mehta, Liz Claeys, Paula Rudnicka, and Alexandra Erickson for all of the hard work they put in to the Holiday Shop and thanks to everyone else who helped: Emmy Cade, Angie VonAncken, Marta Davis, Kelly Volciak, SueLynn McAndrew, Alex Hume, Jennifer Brooks, Emily Tuszynska, and Laura Braceland, who helped kids select and wrap gifts; Jennifer Mack, Kris Mack, and Jeb Mann for helping to set up and decorate; and Paul Erickson & Mark Rudnicki for leading the sing-along.

Thank you to our social committee: Kyle Durbin, Michelle Weikert, and Holly Powers for coordinating the refreshments, decorating, and organizing crafts. A special thank you to Paula Rudnicka for the incredible work she did on the Santa photography and to Brad Fitch for being Santa.

Thank you to Holly Powers for organizing this year's PNS holiday party and to the Millward family for hosting the event in their home.

Thanks to Kyle Durbin and Jane Millward for arranging the Littlest Tree project and food drive and thanks to all who donated.

Thank you to Ryan Bianchetti for taking over the Librarian job until we fill our current openings.

Thank you to the Class Reps: Alex Hume, Lauren Etzler, Susanne Fitch, Rachel Heffron, and Bob and Kim Weber for organizing the class holiday gifts for the teachers and aides.

Thank you to Sherry Steeley, Jane Millward, Ryan Bianchetti, Alex Hume, Emmy Cade, and Abbie Park for serving on the tuition committee.

Thank you to Fatema Kanchan and Simonette DelaTorre for keeping the art corner ready and thanks to Liz Assante for keeping us stocked with playdough.

Thank you to Abbie Park and Allison Hagner for volunteering to serve as Summer School Co-Directors.

Thank you to the maintenance committee and all the volunteers who helped finish our gravel replenishment and cleaned the school during our last maintenance day: Sam Crowley, Josh Martin, Rick Brown, David Konisky, Curt VonAncken, Jason Powers, Chris DiTeresi, David Raich, Paul Erickson, Bob Weber, Brandon Ahrens, Ashwin Mehta, Matt Bianchetti, Laura Braceland, Jenni Buechler, Marta Davis, Kelly Volciak, Maliha Ahmad, Liz Assante, and Emmy Cade.



And a special thank you to our aides: Phyllis Bruyette, Fatema Kanchan, Mary Handlon, and Kris Lahiff who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.

## Bulletins: Reminder

The second half of your materials fee is due with January tuition - see the tuition payment schedule or tuition invoice (available on our website) for amounts.



## 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!

Session 1: May 29 – June 8.

Session 2 : June 11 – June 22.

3 year olds attend Tuesday – Thursday, and 4 & 5 year olds attend Monday through Friday. The hours are 9:30 – 12:30 with NO lunch bunch option. In-house Summer Camp registrations will be accepted February 6<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you have questions in the mean time, please contact Allison Hagner or Abbie Park, our Summer Camp Co-Directors.

## Nominating Committee for 2012/2013 E-Board Positions

We're looking for two volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for the selection of the 2012 – 2013 PNS Board of Directors. During January and February, you will speak with interested individuals either in person, by phone or via e-mail. Nominees will be announced at our February board meeting and approved at our March general membership meeting. If you are interested, please let us know before the January board meeting. Thank You!  
Marta Davis and Kelly Volciak  
PNS Board Co-Presidents



## Last Call for Creative Kids

There are still a few spaces available for our Creative Kids drama class held on Wednesdays following lunch bunch. If you would like to register, please contact Marta Davis.



## Parent Education Events

**January 10th, 2012 @ 9-10:00 pm** Lisa Grace Byrne, certified Holistic Health Counselor, is holding an interactive webinar about stress management for busy parents. 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.

If you plan to attend this webinar, please RSVP to Abbie Park ([abbiepark@hotmail.com](mailto:abbiepark@hotmail.com)) by 1/9/12 to receive the URL and password for this talk. If you are not able to attend, the presentation will be available via password. E-mail Abbie Park for more information about archived access.

**February 13th 2012 @ 6:30-7:30 pm** Ruth Klimpl, an Early Childhood Special Education specialist with Fairfax County Public School 's Child Find, will be discussing developmental delays, autism, and the Child Find program.

**February 16th, 2012 @ 9:45-10:45 am** Dr. Rene Hackney will speak about nurturing preschooler self-esteem, positive discipline, and motivation.

## Need a Babysitter?

We have a new babysitter that is terrific, and she is looking for more families to sit for. Her name is Sarah Melton. She lives in Annandale and is a student at the local NOVA campus. Other than her class times, Sarah has been very flexible about babysitting during the day, evenings, weekends or whenever needed. Since this newsletter is published on a public website, I will not include her phone or e-mail here. But she does have a babysitting profile page at [www.care.com/r/childcare/sarahm3417](http://www.care.com/r/childcare/sarahm3417). Also, I would be happy to give you her info or pass along her business card, if you let me know you are interested.  
Liz Claeys

# January 2012

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                    | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--------|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1      | 2  | 3<br>School Resumes  | 4  | 5   | 6<br>12:30 pm In-House Enrollment Forms & Registration Fee Due | 7   |
| 8      | 9<br>7:30 pm – Board Mtg in the Big Rm                           | 10<br>Parent Teacher Conferences 4s class<br><br>Parent Ed Webinar 9-10 pm | 11<br>Parent Teacher Conferences 3s & 3/4s class     | 12<br>Parent Teacher Conferences 3/4s class | 13<br>Parent Teacher Conferences 3s class                      | 14  |
| 15     | 16<br><b>NO SCHOOL</b><br><br><b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> | 17   | 18<br>10:00-12:00 PNS Open House (School in session) | 19  | 20   | 21<br>Match Box Swap! 10:30-noon (PNS Big Room) |
| 22     | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26  | 27   | 28  |
| 29     | 30<br><b>***NO</b><br><br><b>FCPS</b>                            | 31<br><b>SCHOOL***</b><br><br><b>Holiday</b>                               |  |   |  |   |

