



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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The Providence Pages

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NOVEMBER 2009

A LETTER FROM JENNIFER...

As October draws to a close, the holiday season is about to enter full swing. November holds many great events, both at PNS and home. My kids are counting the days until their grandparents arrive.

This month, the big Fall Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in Fairfax is on Sunday, November 22nd. Family, friends, co-workers, even people just shopping can all participate. All day we plan on having PNS represented by handing out flyers, greeting shoppers and reading stories. Last year we had a great turnout, but this year we are striving to make it an even more successful fundraiser for our preschool!

Other important dates: there is no school on the 2nd and 3rd. The 3/4s class brunch was moved from its date in October to Thursday, November 12th. On the 13th, the CDO class will have conferences, which continue on Monday, November 16th. The 2s conferences are on November 17th. The 3/4s and 4s have their Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday the 24th and finally PNS has no school on November 26th or 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

So far, we have already had quite a bit of excitement with the H1N1 alert. For this reason, it's a good idea to review our HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS policy. We want to ensure that PNS is a safe and healthy environment for all our children. Also please be aware that health issues are private, and as the president, it is my job to make sure that anyone with a problem can speak to me in confidence. We do our best to walk this precarious

line, so bear with me during these stressful situations. And know that I'm not a professional school administrator, but just another parent like you.

I also want to reiterate that the *pnsall* Yahoo Group email is for official school business. Regarding the recent abduction alerts, I would like to express that forwarding these types of emails without double-checking the credibility is discouraged. But as parents it is also important to keep us all aware, so please use your best judgment.



As we enter into November, discussing food and sharing is appropriate. Thus I want to remind everyone who is planning on sharing food with their classes that our Snack Policy specifically states that a parent must notify the teacher and parents in the class, via the PNS class yahoo list, at least *48 hours (but 72 hours is better)* in advance. This may seem strict, but for those children who have allergies, too little notice could leave them without a snack to enjoy with their classmates.

And finally, a big PNS Thanksgiving thank you to all of our families; we all benefit from your hard work and dedication as volunteers in and out of the classroom. Parent involvement is what makes PNS such an extraordinary school, and around Thanksgiving it's always a good idea to recognize how much work goes into a co-op! Thank you! Best wishes!
 —Jennifer Lyon



BARNES & NOBLE FALL FUNDRAISER!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22ND

FAIRFAX STORE

PLEASE COME!!!

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

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PNS HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. If a child has a fever of 100 degrees or more, vomiting, diarrhea, colored discharge from the nose, a rash or unusual skin condition, or symptoms of a communicable disease within the last 24 hours, he/she must not be sent to school unless accompanied by a note from his/her physician stating that the child is in good health and there is no contagion.
2. Following a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, one school day must pass before a child can return to school.
3. When an antibiotic has been prescribed, child must be on medication 24 hours before returning to school.
4. Whenever a child returns to school following an illness, he/she must be able to participate in the normal daily activities. If unable to participate, the parents will be notified and the child will be sent home.
5. A child who becomes ill while attending school must be picked up *immediately* upon notification of the parents. The child shall remain in a designated quiet area away from the other children until leaving school. Whenever possible, parents should indicate their whereabouts on the sheet posted outside each classroom.
6. Medication will not be administered at school except in life-threatening situations and only with prior written authorization from the parents. (Example: administration of epinephrine in a case of allergy-induced shock symptoms.) All parents requesting medication to be administered during school hours must fill out a Medical Authorization form, available from the VP of Membership. Medication, accompanied by a doctor's diagnosis and specific instructions, must be labeled with patient's name, dosage, and expiration date. Medication will be stored in a locked compartment and expiration date will be checked regularly.
7. Parents shall notify the school if their child has a communicable disease. The school shall inform parents as soon as possible if their child has been exposed to a communicable disease. Please refer to the VA Department of Health Communicable Disease Reference Chart, included in your packet, for more information.
8. In the event of an accident or injury, the child will be given first aid by a staff member and kept in a quiet area away from other children. If the accident or injury is serious, 911 will be contacted and the parents will be notified immediately. If the injury is minor, parents will be notified at the end of the day. An accident form will be completed and the incident recorded in the Accident Report Log.
9. Co-oping parents should follow Universal Precautions, included in this packet, for diapering and hand washing. When taking children to the bathroom, state licensing require that parents must not be alone with a child other than their own child. This requirement can be met by taking more than one child at a time.
10. Ill siblings should not be brought into the school building. Please make arrangements for the sick sibling to stay home with a sitter or have a classmate's family take your child to school.



—Weekly themes—

11/2: Stopping germs/
doctor visits

11/9: Food

11/16: Food

11/23: Family

11/30: Shoes/feet

CDO & 2s

Approaching the holidays, I've been listing all the things I'm thankful for this year. At the top

of the list is being able to spend my mornings playing, reading, singing and talking with your children! Thanks so much for sharing them with me!

Thank you, too, for the emails and morning messages you relay with the latest on how your child slept or what they are excited about at the moment. The more I know about what's happening at home, the better I can connect with your child at school. You can't tell me too much! I'm trying to tell you all I can about what goes on at school as well. But if I miss something, or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

We'll begin the month with a short, one day theme on germs and visiting the doctor. We'll practice catching our cough in our elbow, using tissues and washing our hands. Poor Obie is feeling sick and will need the class to be his doctor for the day.

On November 9th we'll begin our two week long food theme. The big room will become a grocery store. We'll wash dishes in Mrs. B's sensory table. We'll read one of my favorites, The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchinson. Children tend to be

picky eaters at this age. But we'll encourage everyone to try new healthy foods with our fruit and vegetable feast on Nov 19th in the 2s and on Nov 20th in CDO.

We'll end November by learning about our families. The holidays are a great time for visiting family. So we'll get out the dollhouse and our toy cars and take some pretend trips to visit grandparents and cousins. Obi, our class puppet, has his cousin Abbey visiting this week. Obi and Abbey are learning to share and take turns. Hopefully by watching the puppets and helping them work out some disputes, the students will learn to say, "Can I have that next" and "Would you like to trade?". Please help your child practice these and other sharing phrases at home. Also have your child practice sharing and taking turns with you. It's usually easier to share with a parent at first and then transfer those skills to playing with friends and siblings.

Mark your calendars! On Nov 13th and 16th in CDO and Nov 17th in the twos class we have parent teacher conferences. I'm looking forward to talking with you!

—Mrs. B



It's November and all the Halloween creatures have gone back to their haunts until next year. We'll start off the month by talking about what other creatures do to get ready for winter, including people. Then it's all about food, glorious food! A nutritionist will visit on Wednesday, the 4th, to tell us about healthy food choices and the Big Room will become a grocery store. The next week we will start to think about Thanksgiving and, of course, that silly bird – the turkey! Then it's the short week of Thanksgiving and we'll have a special holiday snack on Wednesday, the 25th.

We are all taking our daily jobs quite seriously and it's apparently very exciting to come in and see if we've got one or have the day off!

Don't forget our BIG SPECIAL EVENT on November 22nd. Bring everyone out to the Barnes and Noble fundraiser. It's a day of fun activities and raises money for many of the improvements and new materials you see at school.

Another reminder: Please update the clothes in the spare clothes basket for cooler weather and when it gets really cold, please, please, please send mittens and hats for playground time. If you have an extra set to leave at school that would be great.

Since this is Thanksgiving month, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in class and in so many other ways at school. We truly couldn't have such a wonderful place for your children without your help. Thank you! Thank you!

—Miss Susan

Fall



—Weekly themes—

11/2: Fall

11/9: Food

11/16: Thanksgiving

11/23: Thanksgiving

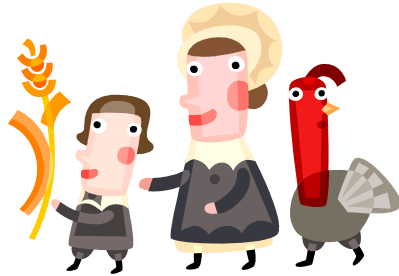
11/30: Games

3/4s

Thankful...that's how I feel right now. I am thankful that your children are healthy, and happy, and ready to share the wonderful month of November (or *YESvember* as we sometimes call it in our class!) with me. This month is filled with learning about the first Thanksgiving and the importance of sharing with others. Our weeks will be crammed full of fun as we talk about Autumn(11/4), food(11/8), Thanksgiving (11/16 and 11/23), and Seasons of the Year(11/30). My Monday group will be looking at the letters A, T, and M during the month.

Our traditional Providence Thanksgiving feast will take place on Tuesday, November 24th and we will be celebrating with the 4s class. We will all be doing some of the food preparation and cooking in addition to the feasting. I promise there will something for everyone to eat at our feast! Although space does not allow us to invite parents to eat with us, a few extra hands to help with final details would be greatly appreciated. I will be posting a sign-up sheet later in the month listing some foods that will be needed...if anyone can help, that would be terrific! Lunch Bunch will be Fun Bunch that day...no lunch will be necessary!

Important dates for November: No school on the 2nd and 3rd (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 26th (Thanksgiving). Our field trip for this month will take place on Tuesday, November 17th, when we go "behind the



scenes" for a special tour of the neighborhood Safeway store during food week. (It is definitely one of my favorite field trips for this age group!) Details will follow!

Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in my "emergency basket"...and to label all those hats and mittens. Star of the Day is a great success – I think being line leader is the favorite part of the job. Show 'n Tell is also going well. I really appreciate your effort when you encourage your Star to bring something that relates to the topic of the week!

I am having a great time with your kids! This group is

"working" together so nicely during Centertime...the imaginative and cooperative play is so much fun to watch! And transitions continue to amaze me...usually everyone listens to the directions and follows them to a "T". (It warms this teacher's heart!) Lastly, I hope you are enjoying your co-op days as much as I enjoy having you with me!

Happy Turkey Day to all!

—Mrs. Millward

—Weekly Themes—

11/2: Autumn

11/9: Food

11/16: Thanksgiving

11/23: Thanksgiving feast

11/30: Seasons

4s

November and Thanksgiving- I love it! From the smells of the turkey cooking in the oven to the football games on every TV in the house to the refrigerator door opening and closing constantly to the dirty dishes building a huge pile in the kitchen sink. Hurray!

I hope all our Providence families are also excited about the holidays and have the opportunity this holiday to spend it in your own special way.

The month of November starts with our unit on Autumn November 3rd -6th. We will paint on a leaf shape and explore the beautiful colors of Autumn.

November 10th-13th, our unit of study is Food. We will make paper pizzas and then bake up some real ones to eat at snack. We will talk a lot about how and why to eat healthy so maybe this is the week to serve your child a new veggie.

During the middle of the month, we will learn about the First Thanksgiving. We will talk about Indians and

Pilgrims. Everyone will have the opportunity to create a Native American Indian drum.

On Tuesday November 24th, we will do our cooking and crafting with a lunch feast about 12 noon. You do not need to send a snack on this day. I will be posting a sign up sheet for some of the food items that we will need for the feast. Space is limited so this is just a child's activity.

A new Show and Tell schedule will be coming. The children are having a great time with this activity. Please help them to choose just one item for sharing that embraces the weekly theme.

Wishing you all a Wonderful Holiday Season!!!! —Ms. Judy

—Weekly Themes—

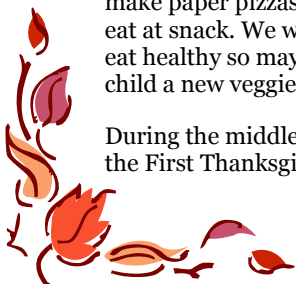
11/2: Autumn

11/9: Food

11/16: Thanksgiving

11/23: Thanksgiving

11/30: Changing seasons



FUNDRAISING

Questions? Call (703-865-8163) or e-mail (claeyssee@yahoo.com) Liz Claeys.



BARNES & NOBLE DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

Please plan to join us at our biggest fundraiser of the fall. The Fundraising Committee will distribute a schedule of events, including teacher storytimes, in the next couple of weeks. Remember that the more sales there are, the higher the percentage of money that goes back to PNS. Every item in the store is eligible – even coffee and food at the Starbucks Café.

The flyer will be e-mailed via PNSall in November. Please forward it to your friends and family, and encourage others to join us at the Fairfax store. We are planning a day full of entertainment, crafts, and storytimes.

We still need lots of volunteers to make this a successful event. We will need help reading stories, doing crafts, and passing out flyers to shoppers. Please let Liz Claeys or Christine Clifford know if you are interested in helping out. It will be a fun way to earn a couple of volunteer hours!

PNS HOLIDAY SHOP

DECEMBER 3RD AND 4TH



Holiday Shop “order forms” will be going home in backpacks in early November. This is a fun way for your child to select gifts for special family members, pets, or friends. Please **print clearly** when filling out the form – we don’t want to send home a gift for “Nana” labeled for “Meme” because we can’t read the name.

A few volunteers are still needed to help the children select and wrap gifts for their family members. Please let Liz or Christine know if you can help out.



RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH



Firehouse Subs in Fairfax Towne Center will be hosting a fundraiser for PNS on November 4th. All day long, anyone who hands in our flyer with their purchase will earn a percentage of the money for our school. Flyers will go home in backpacks and also via e-mail, and we will have extra copies at the restaurant if you forget yours. Please encourage family, friends, and neighbors to come also. It is very generous of the management to offer to host us all day – those who can’t make it for dinner can drop in for lunch.

Find out more about the **Firehouse Subs** restaurant and menu at www.firehousesubs.com. It is run by real firemen, and every kid gets a fire-fighter hat with their meal! This will also be a great chance to hang out with other PNS families and you won’t have to worry about being the only person with kids in the restaurant!

NOTICES

PARENT EDUCATION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH/ 7-8PM



Please come to hear Dara Feldman, Founder and CEO of the Virtues Project, an award-winning program honored by the United Nations as model global program for all cultures from **7-8pm on Monday, December 7th.**

The Virtues Project inspires Individuals to live more authentic, joyful lives, Families to raise children of compassion and integrity, and Educators to create safe, caring and high performing learning communities. Dara is a former public schools teacher of grades K-4, an Apple Distinguished Educator, winner of Disney's Outstanding Elementary School Teacher of the Year award in 2005, and a mom.

This will count as one hour towards your parent education requirement. Stay for the PNS Board meeting immediately following and earn one volunteer hour, too!

—Maureen Cushman



CDO/2S PARENT/ TEACHER CONFERENCES

**CDO parents: Friday, November 13th and
Monday, November 16th**

2s parents: Tuesday, November 17th



Warmer Spare Clothes

If you haven't already, please change out your child's spare clothes for the cooler weather.

VOLUNTEER!

Volunteering opportunities and ideas for November:

- Attend the Board Meeting (9 November 7:30pm) and earn a volunteer hour.
- Check with Fundraising (Liz Claeys & Christine Clifford) about helping out with the Barnes & Noble fundraiser (Sunday 22 November).

—Karen Wallace



NOVEMBER ENRICHMENT

Wed., November 4th/ 11:30am

Good Eating Habits with Teresa Hinds, Dietician for Fairfax County Public Schools. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. 2's, CDO's and siblings are welcome with a parent.

Next month

Wed., December 16th

Build a Gingerbread House

Children will build and decorate their own gingerbread house during class time to take home. This activity is available only to the students enrolled in PNS. Looking for 3 volunteers per class to help assist with the gingerbread house decorating. Please contact Leslie at lherman@fairfaxva.gov.



NOTICES

! NO SCHOOL ! Note that there are FOUR school holidays this month: **Monday, November 2nd, Tuesday, November 3rd**—for FCPS school holidays.

And for Thanksgiving break, no school on **Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th.**



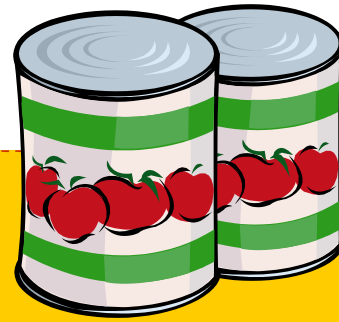
3/4s & 4s

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

3/4s & 4s (kids only) are having a Thanksgiving luncheon on November 24th. No need to send in a snack or lunch (for lunch bunchers) on that day.

Sign-up sheets for food and parent helpers will be posted by Ms. Judy and Mrs. Millward later this month.



THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE

From 11/16-11/25, there will be a box in the main hallway where families can leave donations of canned and boxed goods. All donations are for Providence Presbyterian's food pantry, which supplies members of our community, regardless of their religious affiliation.

All boxed and canned goods are accepted, but specifically Providence has asked for the following items:

- canned meats (such as Spam, Treet, or tuna)
- cereals
- peanut butter, jam or preserves
- canned fruit and apple sauce

Thank you for your generosity. Please contact me at jphusmc@yahoo.com or 703-881-6543 if you have any questions. *—Kati Hesford*

SPEECH SCREENINGS—COMING IN JANUARY...

Katherine Moore, a licensed speech-language pathologist, will be at Providence from **10am-noon on Friday, January 22nd** to offer voluntary speech screenings to Providence 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. This will be soon after your parent-teacher conferences in early January. The cost will be \$10/child. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

—Maureen Cushman

BULLETINS

TWO SCHOOL CUBBIES FOR SALE

Up for sale are the two cubbies currently being used for dress-up. They are approximately 4' wide and house four cubbies with hooks. They are quite heavy and you must haul away yourself on the weekend. We are selling them for \$80 each and the money will go back to the school.

If you are interested please contact me, Jenn Lyon, at jennlyon@verizon.net or 703-273-2098. I will sell them on a first come first serve basis.

Thank you... to everyone who attended the Clean-up & Maintenance Day on Saturday, 17 October. Specifically, thanks to Thao Hoang, Anais Hughes, Steve LaPenna, Matt Bianchetti, Flo Williams and Jennifer Remsburg. The entire school was cleaned and disinfected, and some painting and other repair work was done. For those who were unable to attend, you'll have another opportunity on Saturday, 12 December.

-Karen Wallace



Thank you to Janet Amiryar and Dawn Ahrens for putting together the individual class placemats and organizing our school picture days. To Liz Claeys, Christine Clifford and Prastavna Mehta for organizing our fall fundraisers, Constructive Playthings and Barnes and Noble. To Anais Hughes and her brother Alex for getting out there and building our new playground bridge.

Thank you also to Justin Lyon, Karen Wallace, Susanne Fitch, Thoa Doan, Tiffany and Matt Link, Ryan Bianchetti, Angie VonAncken, Helen Burvis, Jane Millward and Susan Patton for an amazing weekend getting the new cabinets built and set up in the Big Room and Music Room, as well as taking the time to organize everything that fills those cabinets. You were all amazing and I cannot say thank you enough for all the hard work and time that was spent at the school this weekend considering the surprise delivery we had this week and the scramble to make it all happen.

-Jenn Lyon



NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	3 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	4  FOUNDED BY FIREMEN REST. FUNDRAISER GOOD EATING HABITS 11:30 AM	5	6	7
8	9 PNS BOARD MEETING 7:30PM	10	11	12 3/4s BRUNCH 9:30-10:30 AM	13 CDO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES	14
15	16 CDO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES	17 2S PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES	18	19	20	21
22 Barnes & Noble FUNDRASIER	23	24 LUNCHEON FOR 3/4 AND 4S	25	26 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> 	27 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	28
29	30					

