

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 3

November 2011

A Letter from Marta...

In November, it is customary to stop and reflect about the things we are thankful for. This year I didn't have to look very far. A 26 ton pile of pea gravel sitting squarely in front our playground kind of catches your immediate attention! While the pile itself was pretty impressive it was the sight of a small group of dads and granddads painstakingly shoveling, hauling and raking buckets and buckets of pea gravel onto the playground that moved me. On a crisp, beautiful Saturday morning these amazing folks took time away from their families to make our playground safer for our students.

Replenishing the pea gravel was a truly mammoth effort. One that took an enormous amount of organization. My co-president, **Kelly Volciak**, spent hours making calls and arrangements. She took careful measurements and compared quotes to make sure we got the best deal possible. On the day the truck arrived, she started shoveling the gravel along with **Ryan Bianchetti** (VP of Administration) and **Sherry Steeley** (Treasurer). They dug out wheel barrow paths to help with the distribution. The next day our Maintenance Committee and other parent volunteers arrived armed with shovels, rakes, wheel barrows and a great deal of positive energy to tackle the mountain of pea gravel. They dug right in and worked for 4 hours without complaint. They carried, hauled, raked and shoveled. They were a fantastic team – efficient, organized and incredibly hard working. They completed a task that we thought would take the entire weekend in one morning. Kelly and I were both blown away by their upbeat attitude and dedication. It was a wonderful reminder of what I love best about being a PNS parent – cooperation. It is this spirit of cooperation and dedication that makes me so thankful to have found PNS.

I am absolutely certain that not one of the parents who attended our last Maintenance & Clean-Up Day ever imagined that they would have to be involved in such a labor intensive project. Indeed, when the board first discussed replacing the gravel none of us had any idea what the project would entail. The Great Pea Gravel Replenishment Project was certainly one for the PNS history books! We want to especially thank: **Sam Crowley, Jorge Rosand, Josh Martin, Rick Brown, Francesco Farella, Antonio Farella, Spencer Brooks, Craig McAndrew, Michael Emmerich, Kris Mack, Jeb Mann and Curt VonAncken**. We also want to thank the parents who were busy scrubbing the school down from top to bottom while they were working on the gravel: **Jenni Beuchler, Kelly Volciak, Ryan Bianchetti, Jeb Mann, Maliha Ahmad and Liz Assante**.

My father spent most of his adult life organizing volunteers for various non-profit organizations and he has a favorite quote from Anthropologist Margaret Mead that kept running through my head as I watched our PNS parents shoveling gravel. *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”* I think I really got to see what she was talking about on Saturday and I am so very proud and thankful to be a part of our PNS family!

Marta



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

No School!

November 7 & 8
FCPS Holidays
November 24 & 25
Thanksgiving Holidays

Upcoming School Dates

School Pictures
Nov. 10 - 2's & 3/4's
Nov. 11 - CDO, 3's & 4's

November Board Meeting
Nov. 14 - 7:30 pm

Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov 14 & Nov 18 - CDO
Nov 15 - 2's

Parent Ed Talk
Nov 16 – 9:45 -10:45am
Dr. Charmaine Ciardi

Fall Fundraiser: Barnes &
Noble Day
November 19

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Nov 22 - for 3/4's & 4's

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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!

Thank you 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 by talking about our hands and art. Expect finger painting and lots of projects with close pins (great for developing hand strength) this week. We'll even try making our own sculptures.

During the week of November 7th, we'll talk about our feet and shoes. We'll read *The Foot Book*, by Dr. Seuss. A mysterious creature had left footprints in the classroom- can the children figure out who did it? Obie goes shoe shopping this week. We'll also be singing Mrs. B's favorite- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.

The holidays are a great time for visiting family.



During the week of November 14th, we'll talk about family and home. We'll get out the dollhouse and our toy cars and take some pretend trips to visit grandparents and cousins. We'll build small houses with popsicle sticks.

Obi, our class puppet, has his cousin, Eukie, visiting in November. Obi and Eukie 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 children transfer those skills to playing with friends and siblings.

On November 21st, 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. We'll make vegetable prints. Children tend to be picky eaters at this age. But we'll encourage everyone to try new foods.

Mark your calendars! On Nov 14th and 18th in CDO and Nov 15th in the twos class, we have parent teacher conferences. I'm looking forward to talking with you!

Mrs. B.

PNS Health and Safety Requirements

With the changing of the seasons comes the inevitable rounds of coughing, sneezing and dripping. Please take a moment to review some of our PNS Health & 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.
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.
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. 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.
7. 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.



3s

It's November and all the Halloween creatures have gone back to their haunts until next year. We'll start off this month by talking about Autumn happenings: falling leaves, colder weather and hibernating animals. The next week will be a short one. There's no school on the 7th or 8th due to Fairfax County School days off. The time we do have at school that week will be all about Body Parts. We all have them, so it's fun to think about them and use them in different and creative ways. Then we'll talk about our Senses. With the holidays coming up soon, there will be lots of things to see, hear, smell, touch and taste. The last theme of the month is Thanksgiving with talk of turkeys and feasting. We will think about things we are thankful for. There certainly are lots of them.



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

Don't forget our big fundraising event at Barnes & Noble on November 19th. This fundraiser is tons of fun and can help with some of those holiday shopping needs.



Another date for the calendar is School Picture Day. Ours is on Friday, the 11th. So make those haircut appointments and pick out the perfect outfit. These photos make great holiday gifts, too.

Please remember to 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.

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

Parent Education Event

Save the date for our next parent education talk! Back by popular parent request, on **Wednesday, November 16th at 9:45-10:45AM**, child psychologist, **Dr. Charmaine Ciardi, Ed.D.**, will speak about habit training and the importance of structure in the development of independence. She will cover specific topics like bedtime routines and co-sleeping and also answering your questions about parenting preschoolers. So, please come prepared and bring your questions about how to encourage independence in your preschooler.

This talk will be upstairs in the Church in room #206. Dr. Ciardi welcomes infants at this event. For more information about this parent education talk, contact Abbie Park, Parent Education Coordinator at abbiepark@hotmail.com.

Attending this talk will give you 1 of 4 parent education hours each co-oping parent needs to complete this year. If you have questions about your parent education hours contact Ryan Bianchetti at rbianchetti@gmail.com.



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 at P.N.S. 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(10/31), food(11/9), Thanksgiving(11/14 and 11/22), and music(11/28). My Monday group will be looking at the letters P, T, A, and L during the month.

Our traditional Providence Thanksgiving feast will take place on Tuesday, November 22nd and we will be celebrating with the Fours' class. We will all be doing some of the food preparation and cooking in addition to the feasting. I promise there will be 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 7th and 8th (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 24th (Thanksgiving). Our field trip for this month will take place mid-month 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 soon!

We will also be attending the Tiny Tots concert at W.T.Woodson High School on Wednesday, November 30th. Aimee will be sending out the details on that exciting trip also. Mark your calendar so that you can come along!

Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in my "emergency basket"...and to label all those hats and mittens that we will soon be needing when we go outside to the playground. 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 and that fits into the "sharing can" also!

I am having a great time with your kids! This group is really "working" on working together during Open Center time...the imaginative and cooperative play is so much fun to watch! We have come a long way just since September! 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!

Jane



Class Photo Sites

We are pleased to see so many of you are utilizing our class photo sites on Shutterfly. The pictures you've been sharing offer so many wonderful glimpses of day-to-day activities at PNS. Keep uploading those pictures! In May, we will order class photo books using those pictures. If you are interested in helping to create those photo books, please see your Class Representative. One quick reminder about our Shutterfly pages. These sites are only to be used by PNS parents. They cannot be shared with members of your extended families or friends. For the safety and privacy of our students, we ask that you not give out any information about our class pages. Also, please do not include any identifying text when posting your pictures.



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 2nd-5th. We will paint on a leaf shape and explore the beautiful colors of Autumn.



November 8th-11th, 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, November 16th-19th, we will learn about the First Thanksgiving.

On Tuesday November 23rd, we will do our cooking and crafting with a lunch feast at 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.

Judy

Winter Weather Reminders

- With cooler weather upon us don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Yahoo Groups is the quickest and most effective method we have of distributing information. You should always pay close attention to school email and at no time is this more important than when we are experiencing inclement weather. School delays and cancellations will be announced through Yahoo Groups.
- Please make sure you label all hats, coats, scarves and mittens that your children bring to school. This is the only way to make it sure they make it home! It is helpful if mittens are tucked into the sleeves of jackets.



Fundraising

The PNS Book Fair is being held on Saturday, November 19th at the Fair Lakes Promenade Barnes and Noble from **10:30am until 6:30pm**. This is our biggest fundraiser of the fall. Your children will enjoy crafts, **music with**



Miss Rachel, facepainting, storytimes with **Mrs.B, Miss Judy, Mrs. Millward**, and much more! More details to follow.

If you are interested in helping out with this fun event, please contact Prassu Mehta or Liz Claeys. We hope to see you

there! - **The PNS Fundraising Committee**

School Picture Days

Group and Individual school pictures for 2's and the 3/4's will be taken on **Thursday, November 10th** while CDO, the 3's and the 4's will be taken on **Friday, November 11th**. If your child is only in Monday CDO and you are unable to make the Friday date, you can have your child's individual pictures taken on Thursday, however they will not be able to be in the CDO group photo.

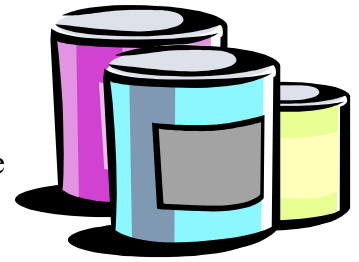
Volunteer!

- Need subs in the CDO class on Nov 14th from 9:30 - 11:00 and in CDO on Nov 18th from 9:30 - 12:30 for Parent Teacher Conferences.
- Need volunteers to help with Picture Days on Nov 10th & 11th
- Need volunteers to help Fundraising with Barnes & Noble Day on Nov 19th.

Reminder: Please report your volunteer hours and parent education hours to VP-Admin, Ryan Bianchetti, (rdbianchetti@gmail.com).

Food Drive

Later this month there will be boxes in the main and back hallways 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. Please check your email in the coming weeks for more information.



◆◆◆ **Thank You!** ◆◆◆

Thank you to Michelle Hejl who volunteered to sub during Lunch Bunch on October 5th. Thank you to Emmy Cade, Diane Dalton and Susanne Fitch for volunteering to sub during the Parent Teacher Brunches. Thank you to SueLynn McAndrew for creating our beautiful bulletin boards. Thank you to Maliha Ahmad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills. Thank you to our field trip organizers – Michelle Danis (3s), Aimee Emmerich (3/4s), and Diane Dalton (4s) for setting up the first of the school's field trips to the pumpkin patch. Thank you to all the dads/granddads who pitched in to work on our pea gravel replenishing project: Sam Crowley, Jorge Rosand, Josh Martin, Rick Brown, Francesco Farella, Antonio Farella, Spencer Brooks, Craig McAndrew, Michael Emmerich, Kris Mack, Jeb Mann and Curt VonAncken. Thank you to Jenni Beuchler, Marta Davis, Kelly Volciak, Ryan Bianchetti, Jeb Mann, Maliha Ahmad and Liz Assante for spending a Saturday morning cleaning our school during October's clean-up day. Thank you to Ryan Bianchetti and Sherry Steeley for ensuring a smooth pea gravel delivery and getting the playground ready for it to be spread. Thank you to all who participated in our Tupperware and House of Bounce fundraisers. Both were a great success for PNS! Thank you to Mr. Richard for keeping our school in such good shape and for always taking the time to make us and our children smile. A special thank you to our incredible teaching staff for all they do for our children each day: Jane Millward, Judy Goldstein, Sue Bengston, Susan Patton, Fatema Kanchan, Kris Lahiff, Mary Handlon, Phyllis Bruyette, and Rachel Heffron.

Most importantly, thank you to ALL of our PNS parents. It is the hard work and dedication of our parents that make our school so special!

November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 FCPS NO	8 Holiday SCHOOL	9	10 School Pictures 2's & 3/4's	11 School Pictures CDO, 3's & 4's	12
13	14 CDO Parent Teacher Conferences 7:30 pm – Board Mtg in the Big Rm	15 2's Parent Teacher Conferences	16 Dr. Charmaine Ciardi Parent Ed Talk 9:45-:10:45am	17	18 CDO Parent Teacher Conferences	19 Fall Fundraiser: Barnes & Noble Day
20	21	22 Thanksgiving Luncheon 3/4's & 4's	23	24 Thanksgiving NO	25 Holiday SCHOOL	26
27	28	29	30			