



**PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL**  
9010 Little River Turnpike  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
www.providencenurseryschool.com

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Please Note the items with  
an \* - they indicate a  
change in date.

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Columbus Day- NO SCHOOL

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm - Board Meeting  
(In the Big Room)

Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 10:30 am  
Brunch for 2s Parents

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 10:30 am  
Brunch for 3s Parents

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 to 10:30 am  
Brunch for 4s Parents

\*Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 10:30 am  
Brunch for CDO Parents

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>  
PACT Conference  
NO SCHOOL

\*Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:30 - 10:30 am  
Brunch for 3/4s Parents

\*Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Cleaning & Maintenance Day  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 10 am  
Halloween Parade-2s & 3/4s

Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 to 10 am  
Halloween Parade-CDO, 3s  
and 4s

# The providence pages



VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2010

## *A letter from Marta & Ann-Marie*

October is quite possibly the most beautiful month in Northern Virginia. The hot, sticky months of summer are gone and we've got weeks of beautiful crisp and colorful days before the rain and snow set in. October is for apple picking, football, leaf-jumping & of course - Halloween!

Halloween is an exciting time at PNS. Parents are treated to a Halloween Parade in the classroom. Students and teachers alike dress-up and parade through the Big Room. The parade for the 2's and the 3/4's is on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The parade for CDO, the 3's and the 4's is on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a wonderful day for all of us - siblings and grandparents are welcome. Just make sure you don't forget your camera! You won't want to miss this wonderful photo op!

As you are preparing your child's costume please keep in mind that there are small children attending this event. While bloody vampires and scaly monsters and other scary costumes are certainly appropriate for trick or treating they can be a bit overwhelming to some of our smallest students and siblings. Oversized masks can be particularly unsettling. We encourage you and your children to be creative and inventive with their costumes. We certainly want them to come dressed as who they want to be - we simply ask that you consider the audience as you and your child make a costume selection.

As the moms of 2 pretty firetruck crazy four-year-olds (Benny in the 4's and Max in the 3/4's) October is a pretty important month in one other way - October is Fire Safety Month! We'll be treated to a visit by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. They'll speak to the entire school about the importance of fire safety and then they'll give the kids a chance to explore their firetruck. Even if your child is not in school on Wednesdays, please come for this fantastic day!

Fire Safety isn't the only kind of safety we are worried about at PNS. It is on our mind each and every day. We are dedicated to the health and safety of our children. From fire drills to EPI-Pens to parking - safety is one of our biggest concerns. As we settle into October, our first full month of school, we hope that you will take a moment to review the guidelines regarding emergencies. You can find these in the red packet you received at Back to School Night. One thing being a parent has taught us : you can never be too prepared!

We hope that you have a wonderfully spooky month!



*-Marta & Ann-Marie*

## CDO & 2s

All of my “little pumpkins” are adjusting quite well to school. We had a few tears at first, but now everyone’s more comfortable. The children’s favorite place is the Big Room, where they can explore and play in our different centers. The water table, play dough and sand box have been big hits. The children have also enjoyed watching our gerbils.

It is truly amazing how quickly the kids have learned our daily routines. We already clean up like pros and have mastered our snack routine. We are working hard on lining up, taking turns and sharing toys.

Of course all the kids love Obie, Mrs B’s puppet. Obie often provides our circle activities by leaving small surprises or jobs for the class. Ironically, Obie is afraid of children. He’ll only come out of his cheerios box if the children sit quietly. Both classes are sitting beautifully for circle, at least as long as Obie appears.

During the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> we’ll be studying fire safety and the color red. We’ll set up the room with fire trucks and a fire station. Fire fighter jackets, hats and boots will be out in the big room. We’ll talk about how firefighters always help us. We’ll practice what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.

Then for two weeks we will talk about the farm! This



is a great time to visit local farms to see the harvest, the pumpkin patch and a corn maze. My favorite is Frying Pan Park. In school the art table will reflect our theme as we make sheep with clothespin legs and try tractor painting. During circle time we’ll read the Big Red Barn and sing Old McDonald. We’ll also make a special bulletin board with our favorite farm animals.

Please plan to attend our class brunch on Tues., October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 for the 2s class and on Mon., October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 for the CDO classes. All of my CDOers and their parents are welcome during the brunch, regardless of which day of CDO they usually attend. Younger siblings are welcome as well. I’ll have information on what’s happening at school as well as information on language development and ideas for preventing behavior problems.

We’ll end October with everyone’s favorite- Pumpkins and Halloween. I emphasize the fun and silliness of Halloween and down play the scary stuff. The 2s class will have a Halloween parade on Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup> with the 3/4s. CDO will have a parade on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. All CDO students should plan to join us for the parade regardless of which CDO day they usually attend. Parents and siblings are welcome and encouraged to stay for the parade.

–Mrs. B

## 3s

It’s only October and we’ve already learned a lot. We know our new friends’ names, where our cubbies are, how to check in each morning, who Miss Carol is, that pea gravel should stay on the ground, that we have to clean up our things after snack time, that we talk about the weather every day and so much more!

Now that we know all that, it’s time to add a little more excitement to our days. This month we will start doing Daily Jobs. Each morning look for a job picture attached to the check-in symbols. Some days there will be a job, some days there won’t. They rotate through the class. It’s very exciting to see which job you get.

There are some important dates to put on your calendars this month. On Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, we grownups get to spend an hour together chatting and brunching. This is an easy parent education hour, so please try to attend. There will be no class on the 20<sup>th</sup> when the teaching staff attends the PACT conference. The following Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, is our first field trip and we’re going to Burke Nursery. We’ll take a big wagon ride, climb and slide and roll in the play area and visit the “pumpkin patch” on our way out.



Then comes one of our favorite things: Our own Halloween costume show. Make sure to have your cameras ready as we show off our clever Halloween outfits first thing Friday morning, the 29<sup>th</sup>. I'll send out more information about this exciting event later.

As if all of that wasn't enough, we also have our weekly themes to concentrate on. The first is Fire Safety. We will have a visit from the firefighters (emergencies permitting) on the 6<sup>th</sup> to reinforce what we're talking about in class. We'll practice "Stop, Drop and Roll" and learn what to do if you find matches where they shouldn't be. Next we will share what we know about Night Creatures. They might seem a little spooky at first, but not after we learn about them. After all, we have one living at our school – Cleo! Then we'll have a week of pumpkin fun leading up to our field trip. Finally, after we have heard many times who's going to be what for Halloween, it's almost here! Superheroes, animals and goblins will inhabit the school in anticipation of the big night.

I hope everyone is having as much fun at school as I am. We're off to a wonderful start and I'm looking forward to some great adventures with this class.

*-Miss Susan*



School is in full swing and my busy 4s are now comfortable in their routines and making new preschool friends.

During October, one of my favorite months of the year, we will learn about Fire Safety, Manners, our Senses and have fun celebrating Halloween.

During the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, we will learn about the "Hot" Topic of Fire Safety. We will make tissue paper flames, paint on aluminum foil and make an edible fire truck. We will also have fun practicing the stop-drop and roll technique.

Manners is our unit of study Oct 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. I will be listening for the words Please and Thank You.

October 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> is a week of Senses. We will be seeing, hearing, touching and tasting our way through the week.

October 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> is Halloween. We will have some Monstrous fun this week making a pumpkin vine by stamping with a carrot. On Friday October 29<sup>th</sup>, come to school wearing your costume. We will have a short parade at 9:30. Mom's this is a great photo opportunity.

October 5<sup>th</sup> starts our "special student" program. The special student of the day will be our line leader, weather watcher and calendar helper. On his/her assigned day, he or she may bring in one item to share (show and tell) with the class. I will provide a calendar at the start of every month listing your child's special day.

Also, October starts the introduction to the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. A variety of hands-on activities will be offered to help your child develop language, vocabulary and confidence.

Thank you, everyone. September was great. We are having tons of fun.

*-Judy*



3/4s

I just love fall...and all those sights and sounds of autumn that the month of October brings. Here at PNS, we'll do lots of discussing, experimenting, and playing with autumn "stuff"...and these seasonal finds will inspire many language, math, science, and music activities in our class room.

October 4th brings us to the beginning of our fire safety unit. We will be learning interesting facts about fire fighters and their equipment. We'll also hold several "stop, drop, and roll" practice sessions. Dinner conversations should be exciting this week! For our first Wonderful Wednesday of the year, our friends from Engine Company 23 will stop by to spend some time with us on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the fire fighters will be able to bring a couple of fire engines for us to crawl through and learn about! We'll become experts in ladders, hoses, and all sorts of other fire fighting equipment! What an exciting day for all!



The next weeks are filled with autumn excitement. We will talk about manners and feelings during the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. (Don't forget that there is no school on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in observation of Columbus Day.) I have several age appropriate books that we will read during circletime that will lead us into some "polite" discussions. ☺ Next comes a week filled with lots of fun learning about our 5 senses...our table activities will certainly be touchy and smelly and filled with good sights. Our month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween, and we'll work up to the big day by spending some time learning about pumpkins and spiders. Our celebration this year will be on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please send your child to school in his/her costume on that day. We will be parading with the 2s class, so that everyone can admire all of the costumes. After the parade (which you are cordially invited to attend), the kids will change from their costumes and we'll return to our "normal" day. (If anyone would like to volunteer to provide a special treat for that day, please let me know.)

Per your overwhelming support, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to the Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch. The exact date will follow as soon as Terri has it all firmed up. I look forward to this trip every year! We'll take a hayride, play in the straw mazes, swing on the rope swings, and drink apple cider at snack time. It's a wonderful day to be a kid...big or little! Plan on coming with us – and staying out there longer with your child, if you can!

October signals the start of my "Star of the Day" program. I will send home a calendar at the beginning of each month which assigns each child "their" day...it's their time to shine. Please allow the child to bring in one special item to Show 'n Tell on that day. I would like the item to relate to the weekly theme...and I'm counting on you to encourage appropriate choices. The item should be delivered in their backpack and will remain there until the proper circle time. The special item will be returned promptly to the backpack after its presentation. This is for the safety of everyone...and the item! The Star of the Day will also be my special helper...from line leader to calendar person...it is "their" day.

The Monday Gang (the 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month also. We'll take a look at one letter at a time. The lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences for your four year old. The letter will be listed on your calendars along with the weekly themes.

So we're off and running and having a great time! We had such a smooth beginning to the year that September flew by. October is bound to be even more fun. Also mark your calendars that there is no school on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>...we teachers will be at our PACT conference that day.

Here's to a month that's packed with colorful experiences for everyone!!!

*-Jane*

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

Parents, please bring your child to school in costume. Stay after the parade to take extra photos and then bring the costume home with you.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2S & 3/4S CLASSES**



**Friday, October 29th**  
**3S & 4S & CDO CLASSES**

Parades begin at 9:30AM so please make an extra effort to be on time.

## NOTICES

### FUNDRAISING

- Posh Pouches are still available until **October 1st**. Place your order at [www.poshpouches.com](http://www.poshpouches.com) and put Providence Nursery School in the online fundraiser portion when checking out so we may receive a portion of the proceeds.
- Holiday Shop forms are due by **October 15th**. Please put completed forms with a check payable to PNS in the fundraising mailbox.
- Mark your calendars for the PNS Barnes and Noble Fundraiser on **November 20th**. More details about the event will follow but consider getting volunteers hours by helping with the event. Please contact Prassu Mehta or Christine Clifford to sign up.

Thanks! -Prassu & Christine



### PARENT-TEACHER BRUNCHES

Spend an hour with your child's teacher and fellow parents learning about the classroom routine and discussing child development.

Contact your class rep about bringing a food/drink item to share (which earns you volunteer credit, too.) And attending teacher brunches earns  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of your parent education requirement. All brunches are from 9:30 - 10:30 AM.

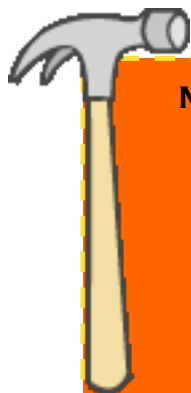
CDO parents: Monday, October 18th

2s parents: Tuesday, October 12th

3s parents: Wednesday, October 13th

3/4s parents: Thursday, October 21st

4s parents: Wednesday, October 13th



### MAINTENANCE DAY

**OCTOBER 23RD**

**8:30AM-12:30PM**

Every family needs to participate in one Cleaning and Maintenance day for each child attending PNS. Buy-out option is available.

Contact Kelly Volciak ([kellyvolciak@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyvolciak@yahoo.com)) to sign up and/or for more information.

# NOTICES

## 😊 FRIENDLY REMINDERS 😊

At PNS our parents shoulder a lot of responsibility. From making fresh play-dough to keeping our playground safe it is all up to us. Our responsibilities go beyond our family jobs and co-oping in the classroom. In fact, perhaps our biggest responsibility is to follow the rules and policies that keep all of our children safe. With that in mind we would like to offer a few reminders:

PNS is a NUT FREE school. As you are sending in birthday treats and Halloween snacks please remember that there are children in our school with severe allergic reactions to nuts. Please make sure that everything you send into the school is free of all nuts.

Please remember to strictly adhere to our PNS Privacy Policy. Do not post pictures of PNS children online (the only exception being our school Shutterfly sites). Keep any information you learn about a family or child while co-oping confidential. It is the duty and respectability of our teachers and only our teachers to address behavioral or educational issues with parents.

For the safety of our children please do not park in the parallel lines in front of the school. Our children are often hard to spot and are prone to wandering. We ask that you park in the lot to provide them with a safe entrance into the school.

When changing a soiled diaper in one of our bathrooms please make sure you are utilizing the plastic bags provided in the top drawer of the storage cabinet in the ladies room. Please tie the bag & place it in the garbage bins outside Door # 2.

### VOLUNTEER!

Opportunities to earn volunteer hours this month:

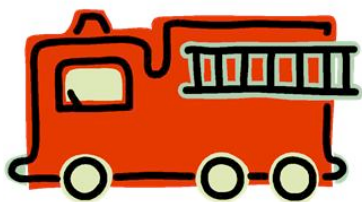
- Contact your class reps, who will be coordinating food and drink donations for parent brunches
- Attend the monthly board meeting on Monday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. (one volunteer hour earned)
- Sub for lunch bunch needed on October 27 (12:30pm - 1:30pm)
- Volunteer to clean the fish tank
- Contact Christine or Prassu about helping the fundraising committee

-Kelly Volciak

### Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch continues to fill up! There are still a few spaces left – especially for Friday. Sign your 3, 3/4 or 4 up today!

To enroll your child in Lunch Bunch contact **Ryan Bianchetti**, Assistant Treasurer, at [rdbianchetti@gmail.com](mailto:rdbianchetti@gmail.com).



### Celebrate Fire Safety Month!

On Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am a firetruck will be visiting PNS! This event is open to all students – including parent supervised CDO & 2s. We hope you'll all come out & join us for this popular enrichment event!

## BULLETINS



### BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Two years ago we re-started a wonderful PNS tradition, one we'd like to continue this year. Although it is **completely voluntary**, *BIRTHDAY BOOKS* is a great way to support PNS. On your child's birthday, bring a book of your or your child's choice to be read by you and then donated to the school library. Check with the teacher to make sure that PNS does not already own the book—or even to ask for book suggestions. Books should also be new or gently used.

*Coming in November...*



School Pictures will be taken on  
Thursday, Nov 11th for 2s & 3/4s  
Friday, Nov 12th for CD0, 3s & 4s

We still have an opening in the 3s class. The student needs to be three-years-old by 9/30/2010.

thank you! thank you! thank you!

Each & every day parents and staff members make big and small contributions to the school. Here are just a few that we'd like share with you:

Thank You to **David Zamora** (Nicholas in the 4's class) of the Maintenance Committee for taking the time out of his weekend to paint Miss Judy's class room.

Thank You to **Abbie & Mike Park** (Sydney in the 2's & Tyler in the 3/4's) our Parent Education Coordinators for arranging thorough and thoughtful co-op training. An extra big Thank You for volunteering to arrange a make-up session for families who were unable to make the scheduled ones.

Thank You to **Dawn Ahrens** (Lyndsey in the 3's) our Photography Coordinator for setting up our class Shutterfly sites and making our class place-mats.

Thank You to **David Raich** (Levi in Monday CD0) for drawing a beautiful map of our playground to comply with our state license.

Thank You to **Providence Presbyterian Church** for bringing in an HVAC specialist to clean our air ducts. We can all breath a little easier now!

*-Marta & Ann-Marie*

### REMINDERS ABOUT BIKE HELMETS

For parents would like to their child to wear a helmet during bike time:

1. Label helmet with the child's name and placed in cubby at drop-off.
2. Helmets should be properly sized and adjusted, as teachers do not have time to re-adjust the straps.
3. If a helmet is sent in for a child, that child must wear the helmet during bike time. If the child refuses to wear the helmet or takes it off, he/she will not be permitted to ride a bike that day.
4. Helmets may not be shared by other children. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher or let me know.

*-Ann-Marie*



# OCTOBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Firetruck visit/ 10AM	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <i>BOARD MTG/7:30PM</i>	12 Parent Brunch/ 2s 9:30-10:30	13 Parent Brunch 3s & 4s 9:30-10:30	14	15	16
17	18 Parent Brunch/ CDO 9:30-10:30	19	20 PACT Conference <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	21 Parent Brunch/ 3/4s 9:30-10:30	22	23 Maintenance Day 8:30-12:30
24	25	26	27	28 <i>Halloween Parade</i>  <i>2s, 3/4s 9:30-10AM</i>	29 <i>Halloween Parade</i>  <i>3s, 4s, CDO 9:30-10AM</i>	30
31 <i>happy halloween</i>						

The Providence Pages is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to [kati.hesford@gmail.com](mailto:kati.hesford@gmail.com).