

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 2

October 2011

A Letter from Kelly...

Wow, I can hardly believe it is October! The first few weeks of school are behind us, and the kids are already settled into their daily routines here at PNS. I am sad the summertime flew by so quickly, but I am glad that fall is here. It's time for apple picking, pumpkin carving, football watching and of course, Halloween!

October is a favorite month for my family and a very busy one for PNS. In this month's newsletter you will find information on all our October activities, including enrichment, field trips, parent education opportunities and parent/teacher brunches. Probably the most exciting event happening at PNS this month is our annual Halloween parade. Students and teachers alike will dress up to show off their costumes to family and friends. The parade for the 2s and 3/4s will be held on October 27th. The CDO, 3s and 4s classes will parade on Friday, October 28th. The school will be full of our kids' favorite animals, story book characters, princesses and superheroes. All family members are welcome. Just don't forget your camera!



As you and your child are deciding on a costume, we ask that you keep our youngest students and siblings in mind. Masks or mummy wraps are great for trick or treating but can be quite scary for little ones who don't understand it is one of their friends underneath. We encourage you and your children to be creative and inventive with their costumes, but please also be considerate of our preschool audience. I hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween!

Of course, Halloween isn't the only time we talk about safety at PNS. Over the past few months, we've experienced a hurricane, earthquake, flooding and torrential downpours. The safety of our children is always top priority for our parents and staff. Please take some time to review our school's guidelines regarding emergencies. You can find these in the red folder you received at Back to School Night. We hope we never have an emergency situation during school hours, but if the weather we've had so far this year has taught us anything, it's that it never hurts to be prepared! Have a great October and a Happy Halloween!

Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 20031
www.providencenurseryschool.com

Mark your Calendar

Columbus Day – **NO SCHOOL &** **Board Meeting**

7:30 pm
Monday, October 10th

Parent Brunches

9:30-10:30 am on :
Tuesday, October 11th - 2s
Wednesday, October 12th
-3s & 4s
Thursday, October 13th -3/4s
Monday, October 17th - CDO

Cleaning & Maint. Day

8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Saturday, October 22nd

PACT Conference – **NO SCHOOL &** **House of Bounce Fundraiser**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday, October 26th

Halloween Parade

9:30 am – 10:00 am
Thursday, October 27th
- 2s & 3/4s
Friday, October 28th
- 3s, 4s, CDO

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to mrsd1977@gmail.com by October 20th for November's issue.

CDO & 2s

All of my “little pumpkins” are adjusting to school.

We had 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 3rd, we’ll be studying fire safety and the color red. We’ll set up the room with fire trucks and a fire station.



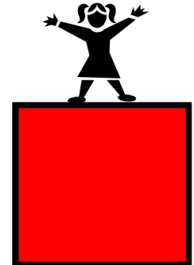
Firefighter jackets, hats and boots will be out in the big room. We’ll talk about how firefighters always help us. We’ll practice what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.

Then we’ll be talking about squares. We’ll try sponge

painting with square sponges. We’ll also make squares with popsicle sticks. We’ll sort blocks by shape and follow a series of clues to find Obie’s favorite shape.

After squares we’ll talk about the autumn leaves. Expect lots of colorful art projects this week. If the weather allows, we’ll take a walk along our nature trail to look for signs of fall.

Please plan to attend our class brunch on Tues., October 11th from 9:30-10:30 for the 2s class and on Mon., October 17th 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 ways to promote sharing and friendship.



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 27th with the 3/4s. CDO will have a parade on Friday, October 28th. 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.

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 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 responsibility 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.

3s

We've raced our way through September and have already learned a lot in the process. We know our new friends' names, where our cubbies are, how to check in each morning, who Cleo and Miss Rachel are, 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 symbol 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 several important dates to put on your calendars this month. On Wednesday, the 5th, we'll have a visit from some live animals. Their human escort will show them off and share some interesting facts about each one. The following Wednesday we grownups get to spend some time together chatting and brunching for an hour of parent education. Friday, the 21st, is our first field trip to Burke Nursery's Halloween playground. 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 28th. Remember there will be no school on Wednesday, the 26th, as the entire staff attends a semi-annual teacher's conference.



As if all of that isn't enough, we also have our monthly themes to concentrate on. The first is Fire Safety. Hopefully, we had a visit from the firefighters last month to get us interested in this topic. We'll practice "Stop, Drop and Roll" and learn what to do if you find matches where they shouldn't be. Next it's all about Night Creatures: owls, bats and their nocturnal friends. Then we will explore Pumpkins and Apples – inside and out! Finally, after we have heard many times who's going to be what for Halloween, it's almost here! Superheroes, princesses, firefighters and animals 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

Parent Education Event

We are excited to present the first parent education talk of the year! You are invited to learn more about three exciting and interesting kindergarten education options. Not all students learn the same way and the Montessori style, the Waldorf philosophy, or homeschooling might be the best choice for your family. Representatives from the Montessori School of Northern Virginia, the Potomac Crescent School, and our own PNS Parent, Jennifer Buechler who homeschools three of her children, will talk about their institution, the foundations of their teaching philosophies, and answer your early childhood education questions. The exact date, time, and local will be sent to you via e-mail. For more information about this talk e-mail Abbie Park at abbiepark@hotmail.com.



3/4s

Listen...can you hear that? Crunch, crunch, crunch. It's the sound of happy three and four year olds marching to the playground through tons of fallen leaves. Yes, it is autumn...my favorite season! There are all those signs of autumn outside... colorful leaves, acorns, pumpkins, cornstalks, harvest moons, and spider webs. What fun!!!



October 3rd brings us to the beginning of our fire safety unit. We will be learning lots of interesting facts about fire fighters and their equipment. We'll also hold several "stop, drop, and roll" practice sessions. Our friends from Engine Company 23 visited us in September with their fire truck...and we'll reflect their visit as we talk about ladders, and hoses, and all that exciting "stuff."

Starting on October 11th, our week will be filled with lots of fun learning about our 5 senses...our table activities will certainly be touchy and smelly and filled with good sights.



(Don't forget that there is no school on Monday, October 10th in observation of Columbus Day.) We will talk about manners and feelings during the week of October 17th. I have several age appropriate books that we will read during circletime that will lead us into some "polite" discussions. ✧ 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 27th. 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 at the Back to School Night meeting, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch. Hooray!!! Aimee has the trip all planned for the 18th!!! 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 the month which assigns each child "their" special day...it's their time to shine. Show 'n Tell is going to be a little different this year. The night before your child is to be the Star of the Day, I will be sending home a decorated "Show 'n Tell Can." The "chosen" item needs to fit in the can and I would like the item to relate to the weekly theme if at all possible. The "S'nT Can" 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 and the Can passed to the next Star. As the year progresses, I have hopes of tweaking this process a little more, so that we can work on having good descriptions of the item before the unveiling and then asking appropriate questions about 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. And I can't wait! (Don't forget – no school on Wednesday, October 26th. We teachers are at our PACT Conference that day.)

Happy Autumn!!!

Jane

4s

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 3rd - 7th, 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 10th-14th. I will be listening for the words Please and Thank You.

October 17th-21st is a week of Senses. We will be seeing, hearing, touching and tasting our way through the week.

October 24th-28th is Halloween. We will have some Monstrous fun this week making a pumpkin vine by stamping with a carrot. On Friday October 28th, come to school wearing your costume. We will have a short parade at 9:30. Mom’s, this is a great photo opportunity.

October 4th 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

Lunch Bunch - Drop In

You may leave your child for lunch bunch on any day that there is available space. The cost for this is \$9 per day.

Please check with the teacher in charge of lunch bunch for the day to be sure there is space before planning to leave your child! The teachers are listed on the lunch bunch roster that is posted in the Big Room.



Please fill out the envelope located near the lunch bunch roster with your child’s name, the date of the lunch bunch, have the day’s lunch bunch teacher initial your envelope & indicate that you are/are not enclosing payment. Drop the envelope in the black mailbox by the Big Room doors, or put it in the Assistant Treasurer’s box in the Music Room.

Fundraising

Join us on Wednesday, October 26th, for a fundraiser at the House of Bounce in Manassas. (There is no school that day, due to a teacher conference.) We will have Open Bounce time from 10:30 to noon, followed by pizza available for lunch. Tickets will be sold for \$8 per child (one adult admission included free with one paid child; extra adults are \$5. Infants age 1 or under are free.) Please invite friends, neighbors, or relatives who would like to join us. The bigger crowd, the more money for our school! Don't forget to wear or pack socks for everyone!



Lunch will be sold separately - \$5 per person for two pieces of pizza and a drink. The pizza is egg and nut-free; if your child is not able to eat pizza, they may pack their own lunch BUT this exception is only made for children with allergies, all others who wish to stay for lunch must purchase pizza.

Tickets may be purchased in advance through Liz Claeys. **Checks, made payable to Providence Nursery School, can go in the Fundraising mailbox in the Music Room.** You can also pay at the door, but please send me an e-mail to let me know if you are coming. House of Bounce would like to have an estimated attendance number the week before the event, and we need to know how much pizza to order. Directions to House of Bounce can be found on their website at www.houseofbounceva.com.

Don't forget to turn in your PNS Holiday Shop Forms by October 15th! Look out for information about our PowerCapes fundraiser sometime in October! And mark your calendars for our biggest fundraiser at the Fairfax Barnes & Noble on Saturday, November 19th. Questions about these events or any other fundraisers? E-mail Liz Claeys (claeyssee@yahoo.com) or Prassu Mehta (prastavnasinha@hotmail.com).

Wonderful Wednesday!

Wildlife Ambassadors will be presenting a live animal program in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, October 5 from 11:45-12:15. Parent-supervised CDO & 2s students, as well as siblings, are welcome to attend.



PNS Book Club - First Meeting

Love a good mystery? Can't get enough of those self-help books? Devouring the dictionary? PNS is calling all bibliophiles for our first book club meeting: **Wednesday, October 19, at 10:00 a.m.** All genres and readers welcome. Please bring one or two books that you are willing to talk about and lend. Contact Susanne at swunner@yahoo.com to RSVP and to receive meeting details. Note: Our meetings will alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays to accommodate as many people as possible.



Volunteer!

- Lunch Bunch Sub needed for Wednesday, October 5th from 12:30 to 1:30. If your child is in Wednesday Lunch Bunch and you are able to sub, please contact Ryan Bianchetti.
- Subs needed from 9:30 - 10:30 during Class Brunches on October 11th, 12th, 13th & 17th. If you are available to sub on a day that is NOT your child's brunch day, please contact Ryan Bianchetti with the dates you are available.
- Food and drink donations needed for Class Brunches. See email from your Class Rep(s) for more details.
- Help needed at Cleaning & Maintenance Day on October 22nd from 8:30 - 12:30. If you have already completed your family's cleaning obligation, attend an extra Cleaning and Maintenance Day for a credit of 4 volunteer hours. Contact Ryan Bianchetti if you plan on attending.



Contact Ryan Bianchetti, VP-Admin (rdbianchetti@gmail.com) with any questions and to report your completed volunteer hours.

Notes

- All reimbursement forms should be turned into our Treasurer, Sherry Steeley, within 30 days of purchase. Forms should be filled out completely and receipts must be attached.
- Attending monthly board meetings earns you 1 Volunteer Hour!
- Attending Teacher Brunches earns you a ½ hour towards your Education requirements!

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 11:45 am- 12:15 pm Enrichment- Wildlife Ambassadors	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL 7:30 pm – Board Mtg in the Big Rm	11 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 2s Parents	12 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 3s & 4s Parents	13 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 3/4s Parents	14	15
16	17 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for CDO Parents	18	19	20	21	22 8:30 am-12:30 pm Cleaning & Maint. Day
23	24	25	26 PACT Conference NO SCHOOL 10am-12 pm House of Bounce Fundraiser	27 9:30-10 am Halloween Parade for 2s and 3/4s	28 9:30-10 am Halloween Parade for CDO, 3s and 4s	29
30	31  Halloween!					

◆◆◆ **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 **Abbie & Mike Park** (Sydney in the 3s), our Parent Education Coordinators, for arranging thorough and thoughtful co-op training and setting up our first parent education speakers this year. Thank You to **Paula Rudnicka** (Dominik in the 3/4s and Filip in the 2s) for videotaping our last co-op training session and preparing copies of the video for those who were unable to attend. Thank You to **Dawn Ahrens** (Lyndsey in the 4s), our Photography Coordinator, for setting up our class Shutterfly sites and making our class place-mats and to **Jennifer Brooks** (Benjamin in the 3s), for assisting. Thank You to **Marta Davis** (Josie in the 3/4s), PNS Co-President, for organizing our Wednesday soccer enrichment and to **Susan Patton** (3s Teacher) for supervising. Thank You to **David and Kelley Raich** (Levi in the 3s) for doing a fantastic job refinishing our pretend kitchen pieces in the Big Room. Thank You to **Jennifer Mack** (Riley in the 3s), our Enrichment Coordinator, for arranging our Wednesday enrichment activities. Thank You to **Prassu Mehta** (Anamika in the 3/4s) and **Liz Claeys** (Noelle in the 2s and Friday CDO) for organizing our fall fundraisers.