

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 1

September 2011

A Letter from Marta...

This September is a bittersweet one for me. My journey with PNS began four Septembers ago when my son Max entered CDO. After 3 years of learning through play with Mrs. B, Miss Susan, Mrs. Millward & summer school spent with Miss Judy he is off to Kindergarten! His time at PNS has certainly prepared him for the next part of his education. He is ready... even if I am not!

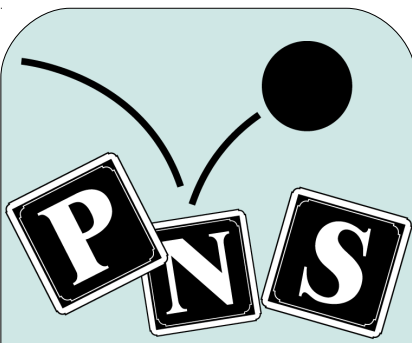
Fortunately, I get to stick around PNS for awhile longer. I am very excited to be sending my daughter Josephine back for her third year at PNS. I am also very excited to be back as Co-President this year. It is an honor to continue working with our amazing teaching staff, our incredible PNS parents and our truly dedicated board of directors. I am especially excited to be working with our new Co-President, Kelly Volciak. Her oldest son, Evan, will be in the 3/4s class for his last year at PNS, while her youngest son, Timmy, is just beginning his school journey in the CDO class. Sharing the responsibilities of this job with someone as organized and committed as Kelly not only makes the job easier but fun as well! This summer, we've had quite a few work-playdates.

Summer is actually a very busy time for the school. We spend the first part of it wrapping things up from the previous school year and the last part getting ready for the new one. Much of what we do from tracking down forms to balancing budgets goes unseen but we think you'll notice some big changes when you return to PNS this fall. First and foremost is the brand new carpeting in our Big Room. It looks amazing! Thanks to all of the dedicated board members, PNS staff members and the Providence Presbyterian Church staff members who helped organize the installation and the clean-up after it was done. To protect our carpet from spills and stains we are respectfully requesting that all coffee, tea, chocolate and other substances that could potentially cause discoloration be kept out of the Big Room or on the tile.

Thanks in large part to our fundraising committee, we have also made some much needed updates to our school wide toys. There are new manipulatives, puppets (complete with a brand new puppet theater), a new supermarket checkout to enhance pretend play and a ride-on roller coaster for our gross motor activities area. And stay tuned for big changes in our Dress-Up Corner! We are currently reorganizing and replacing many of our older, unusable garments with fresh new ones. Please feel free to share your ideas for dress-up themes with Kelly or myself.

September is a crazy, busy month for us at PNS so please review the upcoming important dates to the left. We hope that you will find our first newsletter of the year to be informative and fun. Kelly and I will alternate writing our presidential letter, so look for her letter in October! To all those returning PNS Families, Welcome Back! And to all those new families, Welcome we are happy to have you here!

Marta



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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IMPORTANT DATES!

Wednesday, September, 7th

Open House – Big Room
(See calender for class times).
Siblings are welcome. This is a chance for you and your child to play together with their classmates. **Teachers will not be present.**

Back to School Night – Big Rm
7:30 PM (7:00 PM for CDO).
There is a lot of very important information discussed, so one parent from each family is **required** to attend. Many of our events are child friendly; however this is not one of them. So please make other arrangements for your children.

Thursday, September, 8th

Co-op Training & Abbreviated School Day
(See calender for class times)
Co-op Training is required for every co-oping parent every two years. Attendance counts towards your Parent Education hours.

Friday, September 9th

Co-op Training 7-8:30 PM
(Alternate date)

Monday, September 12th

First Day of School – 9:30 am
September Board Mtg-7:30 pm

CDO & 2s

The Bengtsons had a great summer. We spent July at the pool. In August we went to Michigan and PA visiting grandparents and cousins. We ended the month with a trip camping across western Canada. The highlight of our summer was seeing (from far away) a grizzly bear with three cubs.

Now that the summer travel is done and the back to school sales have begun- I'm eager to start school. Most of all, I am excited about having your children in my class!

Our theme for the first week of school will be "Making New Friends." We'll have songs, games and placemats to help learn everyone's name. We'll go on a treasure hunt to learn our way around the school. The children will quickly master the pattern of our day. Obie will have gifts and surprises for us at circle time.

For some children the biggest step (and maybe the hardest) will be learning that it's okay to let their parent or caretaker out of their sight for a few hours. Parents, my best advise is to try to do the same thing every time you drop your preschooler off at school. Consistent routines are very helpful at this age. Give your preschooler a hug and a kiss, reassure them that you will be back soon to pick them up, and head out. Have fun with it and make a silly joke or secret hand shake part of your morning goodbye.

You are now the parent of a preschooler, and it's natural to have mixed feelings about dropping your child off at school. Don't worry...there will be plenty of hugs, cuddles, fun toys and activities to distract the children from missing Mom and Dad. Plan something nice for yourself- going to the gym or having some quality time with a younger sibling-so you'll be distracted too.

Our next theme will be circles and balls. We'll search the playground for hidden round

treasures. During circle time we'll count and compare circles of different sizes. We'll make circle prints and circle collages. Of course we'll also play games bouncing and throwing balls. Obie will blow bubbles for us to pop at circle time.

We'll be talking about triangles during the week of September 27th. We'll make triangles with popsicle sticks and color boats with large triangle sails. We'll sort out our soft blocks by shape. Obie will bring his favorite shape that makes a noise this week. Can you guess what it is?

A few reminders:

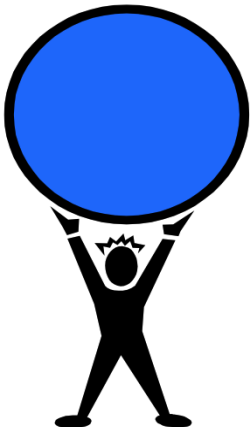
- Each day, please check your child's backpack for school information and art work.
- Please keep toys at home (unless your child has been asked to bring something related to our weekly theme) so that we can avoid disputes and hurt feelings.
- We use the playground every day that weather permits, so please send jackets and sweaters as the weather gets cooler. Avoid sandals or dress shoes.



I'll be sending email reminders about many things throughout the year, so make sure that you're on our class email list. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions you might have. I love to talk about school and the kids.

As I get ready to send my children off to sixth and fourth grade, I know I will miss the opportunities to share in their school experience that I enjoyed at PNS. Make the most of this time. It goes by too fast!

Mrs. B.



3s

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off to school we go! It's great to have you all here for the new school year. Welcome back to our returning families and just plain welcome to our new ones. A couple of weeks ago I was on vacation and not ready for summer to end. But now I'm all psyched up, and I hope you are, too.

Our first two themes for this month are Off to School and New Friends. We'll start by helping everyone feel comfortable. There will be songs and games to get acquainted. We'll learn the daily schedule, where to put our stuff, what there is to play with and, most importantly, how much fun it is to be at school.

During the last week of September we'll talk about Community Helpers. Of course, there are the favorites: firefighters, doctors and letter carriers. We'll also try to discover some that aren't so common. It's a good week to wonder what we want to be when we grow up!

In case you're hearing lots of "I don't know."s, here are some kinds of questions you can ask your preschoolers when you want to know how their day went:

- Did you paint at the easel today?
- Who's Cleo?
- What story did Miss Susan read today?
- Who did you sit next to at snack time?
- Did you go down a slide on the playground?
- What toy did you play with after circle time?



So, we're off on our new year of adventures. If you need help with anything or have any questions, please ask me – I'm a terrible mind reader and but I'm always happy to be of service.

LET'S GO TO SCHOOL!!!

Miss Susan

3/4s

September is an interesting month because it stirs up old memories and mixed emotions about beginnings and endings. Summer is coming to a close and the anticipation of a new school year is in the air! It is my hope to provide many rich and rewarding experiences for your special little one during their time here with me at Providence. (And besides that lofty goal, we will be having lots of FUN!)

The 3/4s class will begin the new year learning about ourselves, our school, and others. September is a good time to explore our preschool and to learn the classroom schedule and routine. Friends play a big part of our time together, so we will try to learn all about our classmates – especially their names!

The first week of school will find us learning about what makes each of us special. We'll talk about ourselves...our likes/dislikes, favorites, and all that sort of "stuff." During the week of September 19th, we will learn about each other's families. How many people are there in your family...any pets? And the last week of September will find us reviewing our colors and shapes. Now that will be a colorful few days! So it's going to

be a busy month.

The "Fours Gang" will have a kindergarten readiness component added to their schedule on Mondays. Details about this will follow.

The "Star of the Day" part of our program will begin in October. On your child's special day, he/she will be line leader, calendar person, show-and-tell sharer, and all those other wonderful preschool "jobs." I'll provide a calendar at the beginning of every month, naming our special daily Stars.

Co-operative preschools like Providence are a partnership between parents and teachers. I hope that throughout the year, you will share with me your observations and suggestions. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you over the next few weeks. We are going to have a great time together watching your child's personality blossom and grow.

I can't wait for the school year to begin!!! How 'bout you?

Jane

4s

Welcome to September! I hope everyone had a great summer and is now ready to enjoy the excitement of starting school. If your little one is feeling a bit nervous about starting school with a new teacher or new friends, please reassure them that lots of fun activities have been planned and Ms. Judy's arms are open for hugs.

The first full week of school starts on September 13th. During this first week we will be busy decorating our "check-in" sticks, making a snack time placemat and learning a new daily school schedule. We will also practice moving quietly in a line, proper hand washing and sing a new snack-time song.

During the week of September 20th-23rd, we will be checking out ourselves and our friends. We will learn what we all have in common and what differences we each have. We will do a simple chart and graph activity that will be available for you to see at week's end.

We will close the month working with colors and shapes. I'm anxious to hear everyone's favorite colors. I will be asking for some specific items sent from home during this week as we will practice a "show and tell".

Please empty your child's backpack daily and send their snack separately from their lunch if your child is staying for lunch bunch.

The class schedule is as follows:

- 9:30-10:15 Small room manipulatives, puzzles and free art activities.
- 10:15-10:50 Circle time, story, calendar, weather and teacher directed activities
- 10:50-11:00 Bathroom
- 11:00-11:20 Snack in the Big Room
- 11:20-11:50 Big Room, process art and center play
- 11:50-12:20 Outdoor time
- 12:20-12:30 Show and tell will start in October



During circle time, I request that the children sit on a wash-cloth or "parking space." Any decorated wash cloth works. I would like to have these by September 13th.

My dry erase board will provide you with day by day information. Let's have a great year!

Judy

Tuition!

Tuition is due by the first of each month. Please pay on time & include your tuition invoice (available in the music room or at <http://providencenurseryschool.com/forms.jsp>). A grace period for all payments extends through the 10th of each month. Payment not received by then is subjected to a \$25 late fee. Please make your checks payable to "Providence Nursery School, Inc." The name of your child must be printed on the memo line. Please put all tuition checks in the black PNS mailbox in the hallway by the entrance to the Big Room or in the purple Treasurer's box in the Music Room.

Terri Radziewski, PNS Assistant Treasurer, will happily collect checks from those who wish to prepay their tuition for the entire 2011-2012 school year in order to receive a 5% discount. Contact Terri at t_radzi@yahoo.com if you have any questions determining your tuition totals.

A Few VERY Important Back-To-School-Reminders

- **NO NUTS! PNS is a nut aware school.** To ensure the safety of children with allergies please **DO NOT** send snacks with nuts or nut products to school. Please make sure to email your class **2 days** before sending special treats in for the whole class. Make sure you include a list of ingredients so that parents of children with allergies can make alternative arrangements for treats that day.
- Accidents happen! Send a complete change of clothes, labeled in a resealable plastic bag. Please make sure that all items of clothing, snack bags and backpacks are clearly labeled with your child's name!
- Check backpacks every day for important notices & newly created masterpieces!
- Weather permitting, playground time is an important part of our day at PNS. Dress your child appropriately in comfortable clothing & avoid open toe shoes. Pea gravel between the toes is extremely uncomfortable!
- To avoid any hurt feelings please leave toys at home – unless your child's teacher has asked your child to bring in something for Show-And-Tell.

Music Notes



Rachel Heffron, "Miss Rachel" started teaching music at PNS in January 2011. A trained singer, dancer, actress and yoga teacher, Miss Rachel is most talented at acting as silly as possible and getting everyone in the room to act silly with her.

A mother of two (ages 4 and 7), she constantly hones her music teaching style by using her children as guinea pigs. Suffice it to say, if her kids derive no pleasure from the lesson, your children will not have to endure it. Throughout the school year, your children will be exposed to beats, rhythms, tonal differentiations, melodies and harmonies. They will be encouraged to sing, dance and move their bodies. The aim is to have fun and to engender a lifelong love and appreciation of music.

KinderKickIt Soccer!

PNS offers seasonal after-school enrichment activities for students enrolled in the 3's, 3/4's & 4's classes. In the fall KinderKickIt Soccer will be offering 6 weeks of soccer on Wednesdays from 1:45 to 2:30 pm. Soccer begins on **Wednesday, September 21st** and ends on **Wednesday, November 2nd**. **Due to teacher conferences, there will be No School and No Soccer on Wednesday, October 26th.** The price for soccer is \$90 and includes a KinderKickIt T-Shirt.



Your child does not need to attend Lunch Bunch to attend soccer. You are welcome to take your child home for lunch or have a Nut Free picnic with your child on the playground if they are not attending Lunch Bunch. To enroll your child please contact Marta at mrsd1977@gmail.com.

Maintenance & Clean-Up Day



PNS held its first of 5 Maintenance and Clean-up Days on Saturday, August 20th. It was a fantastic day! With the help of **Jorge Rosand, Spencer Brooks, David Konisky, Terri Radziewski, Michael Radziewski, Mark Rudnicki, Maliha**

Ahmad, Angie VonAncken, Simonette dellaTorre, Chris Hagner, Holly Powers, Michael Emmerich, Kelly Volciak and Marta Davis, we got a great many things accomplished. We cleaned and sanitized the entire school, touched up paint in the Big Room, power-washed all the playground equipment and toys, and made the nature path bridge much safer by putting up side railings for the kids. The PNS teaching staff and board would like to especially thank Sam Crowley & Stephanie Hagopian, our new maintenance chairs, and Jenni Buechler our new Clean-Up Coordinator, for their tremendous work organizing and running the day. Our next Maintenance & Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Just as a reminder, all families are required to attend one Maintenance & Clean-Up day for each of their children enrolled. You can attend additional days for volunteer hours.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is held immediately after school from 12:30 PM-1:30 PM and gives children enrolled in the 3's, 3/4's & 4's classes an additional hour of fun to their school day. Children bring their own packed lunch – **NO NUTS, PLEASE** – and enjoy eating and playing in a small supervised group setting.



Currently, Lunch Bunch has spaces available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Wednesday is full but there is a waitlist, if you wish to have your child added to it. To enroll your child in Lunch Bunch contact Angie VonAncken at avonancken@gmail.com.

Monthly Lunch Bunch Fees:

- \$30/month – 1 day a week
- \$60/month – 2 days a week
- \$90/month – 3 days a week
- \$120/month – 4 days a week

PNS "No Obligation" Book Club



Do you love to read and talk about books? Do you dislike being obligated to read a certain book for your standard book club? Then PNS has the book club for you. Participants come to book club and bring one or two books they have recently read that they are willing to loan out. Each person has a few minutes to talk about their books. If a book sounds good, borrow it. If not, skip it and bring along a different selection next time. Do you use an electronic reader? No worries -- you can still share your thoughts. Meetings will take place during school hours. Email Susanne Fitch at swunner@yahoo.com for more information.

PNS Film Club

Are you a film buff who never gets a chance to see the latest movies? We have our PNS Movie Mornings about once a month at the Cinema Arts movie theater while our kiddos are in school. It is a wonderful break from the routine, and you can attend as many or as few gatherings as you like! If you are interested in joining our movie group, please send an email to prastavnasinha@hotmail.com so you can be put on the invitation list. See you at the movies!



The PNS Babies of Summer

Congratulations to the PNS families who welcomed a new family member this summer:

- Everett Brooks - born on April 29 to Jennifer and Spencer Brooks. He joins big brother, Benjamin (3s).
- Dylan WonJae Park - born May 27 to Mike and Abbie Park. His siblings are Tyler (PNS grad) and Sydney (3s)
- Jude Weber - born June 6 to Bob and Kim Weber. His big sister is Violet (4s).
- Eliana Marie Crowley - born on June 13 to Sam Crowley and Stephanie Hagopian. Big brother is James (3s)

Enrichment - Fire Safety!

Celebrate Fire Safety Month! On **Wednesday, September 21, at 11:30 AM**, a friendly team of firefighters will be visiting PNS in a fire truck! This event is open to all students, including parent-supervised CDO & 2s. We hope you'll come out and join us for this popular activity!

Volunteer!

Each co-oping family is required to perform 8 volunteer hours, and CDO-only families are required to perform 2 volunteer hours each school year (Sept. - May). Check here every month for volunteer opportunities and ideas.



- Social Committee is seeking volunteers to donate finger foods and desserts for Back To School Night on September 7. Also, help is needed with cleaning up after Back to School Night. Please email Kyle Durbin (kddurbin@verizon.net) if you can help.
- Volunteer to bring a baked good or breakfast item to Co-op Training on Thursday morning, September 8. Email Kyle Durbin (kddurbin@verizon.net) to sign up to provide food.
- Sign up for an extra Maintenance Day. The next one is on **Saturday, October 22nd**.
- Attend this month's board meeting on **September 12, at 7:30 PM**.

Check with class reps or other board members for other opportunities.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee has a terrific array of events and activities planned this year: Tupperware, Power Capes, House of Bounce, Barnes and Noble, The Holiday Shop, a Matchbox Swap, A Potluck/Raffle, and much more! Stay tuned for more details at Back to School Night.

As the school year begins, you will be noticing lots of new things for the kids to play with around the Big Room and classrooms due, in large part, to last year's fundraising efforts. Items recently purchased include many adorable dress-up costumes, library puppets, a new puppet theatre, supermarket checkout, and roller coaster. And who can forget our new carpet in the Big Room?!? We are so excited to have it and look forward to what this year's fundraising will bring to PNS. If you have any suggestions, Liz and Prassu would be happy to hear from you.

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7 Open House 10:00 am CDO 10:30 am 2s 11:00 am 3s 11:30 am 3/4s 12:00 am 4s Back to School Night 7:30 pm (CDO 7:30 pm)	8 Abbrev. School Day & Co-op Training! 9:30 am – 11:00am (2s & 4s) 11:00 am – 12:30pm (3s & 3/4s)	9 7:00 pm – 8:30pm Co-op Training (Alt Date)	10
11	12 School Starts! 7:30 pm – Board Mtg	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 11:30 am - Enrichment (Fire Dept)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Thank You!

Thank you to **Angie VonAncken** and **Terri Radziewski** for another amazing year at Summer Camp! Thank you to our class reps **Alex Hume** (CDO), **Lauren Etzler** (2's), **Susanne Fitch** (3's), **Rachel Heffron** (3/4's) and **Kim & Bob Weber** (4's) for all their hard work this summer setting up play dates and drafting Co-Op Schedules. Thank you to all of the board members who helped us put the school back together after our new carpet was installed: **Emmy Cade**, **Marta Davis**, **Susanne Fitch**, **Rachel Heffron**, **Prassu Mehta**, **Kelly Volciak** and **Angie VonAncken**. Thank you to **Abbie Park** and **Angie VonAncken** for making some much needed repairs to our dress-up costumes. Thank you to **Sue Bengtson & Jane Millward** for helping us sort through the dress-up costumes and reorganize them. Thank you to **Angie VonAncken** for repairing the curtains at PNS. Thank you to **Dawn Ahrens** for choosing new photos for our web site. Thank you to **Thao Hoang** for taking such good care of our fish over the summer. Thank you to **David & Kelley Raich** for stripping and refinishing our toy kitchen furniture.

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to mrds1977@gmail.com by September 20th for October's issue.