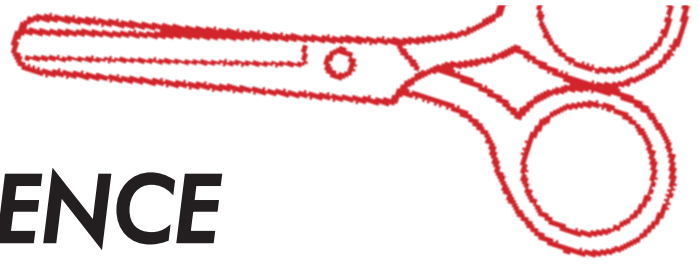


THE PROVIDENCE PAGES



Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax VA 22031

Volume 32, Issue 1, SEPTEMBER 2008

www.providencenurseryschool.com

WOW – it's September already!

A Letter from Robin

A time of new teachers, new school supplies, new friends and new beginnings. It is a time of both excitement and apprehension.

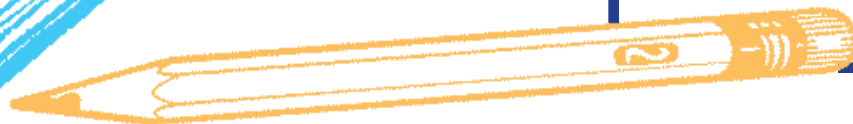
Some of you will be running for the door with joy on the first day, looking forward to some grown up time. Others will be holding back tears worrying about how their child will do on his or her first day (maybe ever) of school. PLEASE know that you will have lots of company either way. At Providence, we are all in this together!! On behalf of Providence Nursery School (PNS) – Kathy and I welcome you all and encourage you to make the most of the PNS experience.

On September 8th at 7:30PM we will have a board meeting in the big room. Besides being involved in the classroom, one of the benefits of a cooperative preschool is having input into its policies and procedures. At PNS, the Board of Directors is comprised of parent volunteers from the preschool and meets the second Monday of every month. ALL parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Not only can you earn volunteer hours but you can really make a difference in how successful this preschool will be.

This year we are welcoming a new aide to our preschool program: Fatema Kanchan. Fatema will be working with Mrs. B in CDO and Ms. Susan in the 3's Class. We are very pleased to have Fatema join the ranks of our illustrious teaching team. PNS is once again equipped with the best teaching staff in the area (and we are not biased in the least!!).

As both Kathy and I get ready to send our oldest children off to another year at elementary school, we know we will miss the opportunity to share in their school experience, what we both so enjoyed at PNS. At no other time in your child's education will you be able to be this involved. Make the most of this time, it goes by too fast. We also want to thank in advance all of the PNS community for your dedication and efforts in making this school a great one and we hope this year will be a rewarding one for you and your child (or children)!!!

Best Wishes,
—Robin Tingley & Kathy VanDyke
Co-Presidents (2008/2009)



Back-to-School Reminders

No nut products are allowed at school in order to create a safe environment for children with allergies. Please check with both the teacher and Classroom Representative for class allergies before bringing birthday treats or other snacks to share.

Please be sure to check your child's backpack or folder every day for important school information.

Send a complete change of seasonal clothes in a resealable plastic bag with your child's name and class clearly printed on it.

Dress your child in weather appropriate clothing, and avoid sandals or dress shoes – those are not fun on the playground!

Keep toys at home (unless your child has been asked to bring in for show and tell) so we can avoid hurt feelings.

CDO and Two's with Mrs. B

It's time once again for a new school year. After meeting so many of you during summer play dates and visits, I am eager to start school. Most of all, I am excited about having your children in my classes!

Our theme for the first week of school will be back to school. There are names to learn and classrooms to explore. The children will quickly learn the pattern of our day. George the climber will be out in the big room and we'll paint with different brushes and textures. The sensory table will be filled with water and containers to practice pouring. Mrs. Healy will lead us in our Music class on Mondays and Thursdays.

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 advice is to try to do the same thing every time you drop your preschooler off at school so they will learn to trust the routine. Give your preschooler a hug and a kiss, reassure them that you will be back soon to pick them up, and head out. The longer you stay and talk the harder drop offs will

be. You can always wait in the parking lot for another mom in the class to give you a report on how your child is doing after a few minutes. Don't worry...there will be plenty of hugs, cuddles and fun toys and activities to distract the children from missing Mom and Dad.

Our theme for the week of September 15th will be circles and bubbles. We'll make circle collages and try drawing circles on the chalk board. During circle time we'll blow, chase, count and compare bubbles. On Thursday, September 18th in the 2's class and on Friday, September 19th in CDO children should bring in a circle from home. This can be a picture your child draws, a small ball, or a toy that is circular.

We'll be talking about triangles the week of September 22nd. We'll try painting a triangle with a golf ball! It'll be messy but fun. We'll also make triangles with popsicle sticks. On Monday in CDO and on Tuesday in the 2's we'll make my favorite triangle food—Pizza!

We'll finish the month with a look at squares and boxes. We'll paint with square sponges and make our own square headbands...Mrs B. has colorful collections of

boxes. We'll sort boxes by shape and then find the correct lid for each box. This week the post office will drop off a square package addressed to Obie. We'll try to guess what might be inside it.

A few reminders: Each day, please check your child's backpack for school information and artwork. 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 everyday that weather permits, so please send jackets and sweaters as the weather gets cooler and avoid sandals or dress shoes. Pea gravel in your sandals is no fun! I'll be sending email reminders about many things through the year, so make sure you're on our class email list.

As I get ready to send my children off into the big world of elementary school, I know I will miss the opportunities to share in their school experience that I enjoyed at PNS. Make the most, it goes by too fast!

—Mrs. B

Three's Class with Miss Susan

Is everyone sufficiently bored with summer yet? Well, we've got the perfect remedy for that – a brand new school year! It's always exciting and a little scary to get together with a new group of people, but we'll be in the groove before you know it. After we learn the daily schedule, where things go and our new friends' names, we'll feel right at home.

In addition to learning "how to go to school", we will explore a different theme each week. Our first will be Yellow and Circles. We'll try to see how many things

at school are round or yellow. Then we will make and read about and play with round and yellow things. The following week we will switch to Red and Squares and then to Blue and Triangles. By the end of the month we will have quite a repertoire of shapes and colors, since we can mix them and add them together to make new ones. Our last theme in September is Community Helpers. It's always fun to dress up like doctors, builders, cooks and other members of our community and we'll have lots of stories and songs to add to our play.

A few reminders: Bring in a change of clothes (including shoes) in case of accidents or spills. It's best to wear closed

shoes for the playground because no one likes to stop in the middle of running around to empty pea gravel out of sandals. Take snack bags out of backpacks when you arrive in the morning so they will be easy to grab at snack time.

I can't wait to get to know everyone and begin our year long relationships. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. E-mail is fine or catch me after class and I truly don't mind if you call me at home.

See you at school!!

—Miss Susan

Three/Four's Class with Mrs. Millward

Wow...is it September already? You bet...and that only means one thing. It's time for FUN at Providence Preschool.

Welcome to the 3/4's class! I am looking forward to the start of this school year and, most importantly, I am excited about having your children be a part of my class! We'll begin the new year learning about ourselves, our school, and others. September is a good time to explore our preschool, to become accustomed to our classroom schedule and routine, and to learn all of our classmates' names! We will focus on colors (yellow, blue, and red) and shapes (squares, circles, and triangles) during our circle time activities. And I can promise you that process art activities will be very colorful this month!

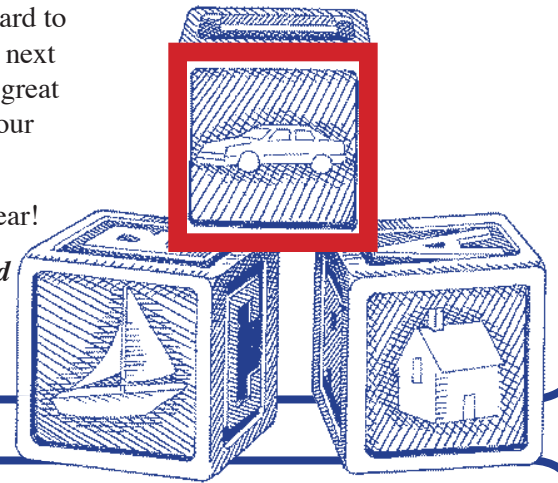
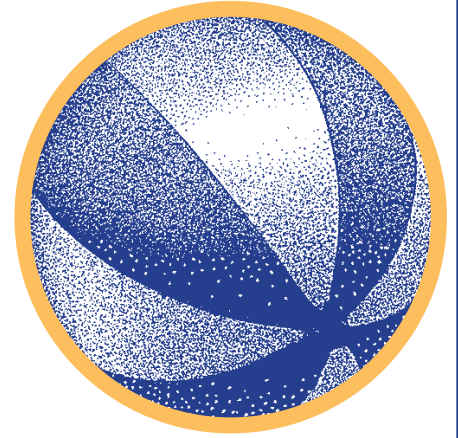
The "Fours Gang" will have a kindergarten readiness component added to their schedule on Mondays. Details

about this will follow. The "Star of the Day" part of my 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 blossom and grow!

Here's to a wonderful year!

—Jane Millward



Four's Class with Ms. Judy

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.

The first full week of school starts for us on September 9th. The color "Yellow" and the shape "Circle" are the themes this week. Yellow play doh, yellow finger painting, yellow crafts and yellow treats are planned for the week.

The week of September 16th is the color "Red" and the shape "Square". Red apples both pretend and real should entice the children during circle time. Apple cooking and apple crafts (no I can't tell

you or it will not be a surprise) should have all the little ones feeling appleicious. We absolutely will not be feeling Blue with all the exciting activities planned for this week September 23rd. Just how many shades of blue can we find?

September 30th–October 3rd is Community Helper Week. We will be discussing the jobs of many that help make the community we live in so great. During this week I will introduce a new game focusing on the skills of memorization and recognition.

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.

10:15-10:45— Circle time, story, calendar, weather and teacher directed activities

10:45-11:00— 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

On Thursdays we will have music class from 11:30-12:00.

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

—Ms. Judy

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraising is an important activity at Providence Nursery School. Funds raised support extra programs, replace worn toys, and help teachers to purchase the supplies they need. This year, I am trying particularly hard to make fundraising activities as enjoyable as possible and I will need lots of participation. You can help by attending events, and also by volunteering your time. Special events are a great opportunity to meet and hang out with other families in our PNS community.

Check your child's backpack for informational flyers about other fundraising events for the fall, such as Constructive Playthings, and restaurant nights.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me at any time with questions, suggestions, or to volunteer. My number is (703) 942-8350 and my e-mail is claeyssee@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your support of our school!

—Liz Claeys, Fundraising Chair

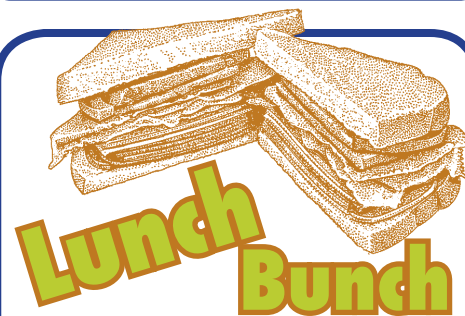
Catch the spirit! Order your child his or her own Providence Nursery School t-shirt and/or sweatshirt



(and get one for yourself too)! Your child will love wearing one of these bright red shirts (especially on field trips when PNS encourages all students and parents to wear their shirts).

Order forms will be available at Back to School night and in the Fundraising mailbox in the Big Room. Orders due by Wednesday, October 1. Completed forms can be returned to the Fundraising mailbox with a check.

NOTICES



There are still spots open in Lunch Bunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays! Lunch Bunch runs from 12:30-1:30 PM and is open to kids in the 3's, 3/4's and 4's classes.

Monthly enrollment fees are \$26 for attending one day a week, \$48 for two days, \$70 for three days and \$92 for four days and are due with your tuition at the beginning of each month.

We also have a drop-in lunch bunch. The cost is \$7 per session and is payable on the day your child participates. To participate on a given day send your child with a separate lunch, notify the teacher in charge of lunch bunch that day, and place a \$7 check made out to PNS in the purple box in Kyle Durbin's inbox. Please note that if the roster for a given Lunch Bunch session is full, drop-ins may not be available. Please check the Lunch bunch rosters and staffing posted in the big room for daily availability.

If you'd like to sign up your child for lunch bunch, please e-mail Kyle Durbin at kddurbin@verizon.net.

Fall Concert & Raffle with Rocknoceros music for kids

Saturday, October 18th

6:00 - 8:00PM

Providence Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall, 9019 Little River Turnpike

Mark your calendars now. Our biggest event for the year will be the Fall Concert and Raffle. The children's music group ROCKNOCEROS will be performing, and it will be a great show that you do not want to miss. Check www.rocknoceros.com for more details about the band. Everyone in the family is invited. Please also invite friends, family, and neighbors.

\$10/person in advance for school families, by cash or check.

PNS families who bring a dessert to share will receive one free ticket.

\$12/person online via credit card

\$15/person at the door

More details will be sent home in September and October.

Mark your calendars!

School pictures will take place Wed, October 22 and Thu, October 23.

They are scheduled to be back to you in time for holiday gift giving.

MORE INFO IN OCTOBER.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Wednesday, September 3rd, 7:30 PM (7:00PM for CDO)

In the Big Room

NOTE: Attendance is mandatory for all families.

For parents of children entering PNS for the first time this year: Don't forget to bring your child's original birth certificate, passport or hospital records. Board members will be on hand to view your child's document. If possible, come a bit early so we can get this out of the way.

Also if you are a returning PNS family and your child/children have updated immunization records please be sure to bring these so that our records can be kept up to date. Thank you.

JIM HENSON'S Fantastic World



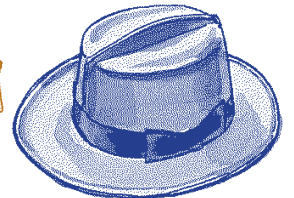
Sept 12, 2008 - Oct 5, 2008

The Jim Henson's Fantastic World exhibit at the International Gallery (inside the S. Dillion Ripley Center) is recommended by the Link Family.

Tiffany says, "They had a lot of typical museum type stuff, but also a fun area for kids to play including a puppet theater, coloring and this area where you could make your own muppet faces using felt faces and velcro pieces for eyes, nose, ears, etc."

Take a look at the web site:
www.sites.si.edu/henson/

—Tiffany Link



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Families with children in the 2's, 3's, 3/4's and 4's classes all must complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. Here are a few ideas to help you get a head start on completing those hours:

- 1** Bring baked goods to Back-to-School Night, or other school functions. Contact Jacquie Nguyen, nguyenjl94@hotmail.com or Tiffany Link, tslink74@yahoo.com for more information.
- 2** Rake pea-gravel on the play-ground (this needs to be done weekly).
- 3** Mop the floors inside the school (this needs to be on a weekly basis).
- 4** Assist in the CDO's and 2's classes during the first month of school (check with Sue Bengston for more info).
- 5** Substitute for lunch bunch on occasional Wednesdays.

6 Attend Clean-Up/Maintenance days during the school year (one attendance is required).

7 Assist the Fundraising Committee with numerous projects (check with Liz Claeys for more information at claeyssee@yahoo.com).

8 Assist the Dress-Up Coordinator as needed (check with Yuna Wong for more information).

9 Attending monthly board meetings also counts toward fulfilling your volunteer hours, and helps us to build a stronger school.

If you have any questions or other ideas regarding volunteer hours, please contact Robin Tingley, Kathy Van Dyke or myself.

—Karen Wallace, VP Administration

SHARING PHOTOS AND VIDEO ON THE INTERNET

MAINTENANCE DAY THANK YOU!!! *I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all who helped out on August 9th for our first Clean-up and Maintenance day of the 2008/2009 school year. We had a wonderful turn-out – 15 people in all – who helped prepare the school for the children’s arrival.*

PNS would like to thank Mary Handlon, Nuran Jeffries, Thao Hoang, Chris Cormier, Marta Davis, Karen Wallace, Elie Rhyu, Kathy Van Dyke, Miranda Weeks, Robin Tingley, Jenny Sladicka, Darren Johnson, Prastavna & Ashwin Mehta, Emily Tuszynska, and of course, Erik Burvis (Maintenance Committee Chair).

Some of the things that were done include sanding and painting the hall shelves, some of the toy crates, the sandbox cover, and the bathroom step-stools; raking the pea gravel; removing sticks and branches from the playground; sanding and tightening the bolt on the tire swing; power-washing the outdoor toys; repairing and/or tightening all of the wooden furniture in the classrooms and big room; fixing the cabinets in the big room (the ones on the wall as well as those in the hall); removing some of the clutter; and cleaning everything in the big room (including the chairs), as well as the hallway walls!!

I hope everyone had some fun, met some new people, and generally felt good about the work that was done – I know I did!!

THANK YOU AGAIN!! I hope to see you all at Back-to-School night.

—Karen Wallace, VP Administration

A BIG PNS THANK YOU TO... *Many at PNS have been busy all summer long setting things up for the new school year and taking care of business. Many thanks go to...*

...Mary Handlon for the terrific job she did as summer school director and for updating the Yahoo group accounts and pnsall.

...The teachers and their aides who made things fun for the kids at Camp PNS this summer.

...Mary McLaughlin for all her hard work conducting school tours, and tracking enrollment.

...Kristin Merten for her amazing job at keeping us up-to-date and on time with all our school forms.

...Karen Wallace for her efforts in assigning family jobs.

...Robin Tingley, Kathy Van Dyke, Carolina and Michael Figueroa for crunching numbers in our budget, and assisting with the teacher’s contracts.

...Kyle Durbin for providing us all with tuition information and lunch bunch enrollment.

...Lisa Muras for her many hours spent copying and organizing information for the fall folders.

...Kate Beddall, our Parent Education Coordinator, for conducting co-op training sessions.

...Karen Wallace and Ms. Susan for taking care of the fish tank over the summer.

...Class Reps (Helen Burvis–2’s, Marissa MacInnis–3’s, Carol Fratangelo–3/4’s and Kati Hesford–4’s) for planning get togethers and organizing co-op schedules.

...Fundraising Chair Liz Claeys and Committee members Christine Clifford and Prastavna Mehta for starting the planning work on our fundraising efforts.

...Field Trip Reps (Michelle Danis–3’s, Alice Kumar–3/4’s, and Allison McMullin–4’s) for starting to plan field trip schedules for next year.

...Enrichment Coordinator Leslie Herman for starting to plan our enrichment activities for the year.

...to our Privacy Committee for all their hard work, Michael Figueroa, Kristin Merten and Ryan Bianchetti.

...to the Social Committee Co-Chairs (Jacquie Nguyen and Tiffany Link) and Committee members (Chrissy Thé and Audrey Nelson) for providing food and drink for Back-to-School Night, co-op training and first days of school.

...AND FINALLY—to All the wonderful teachers and aides—we look forward to a great year!

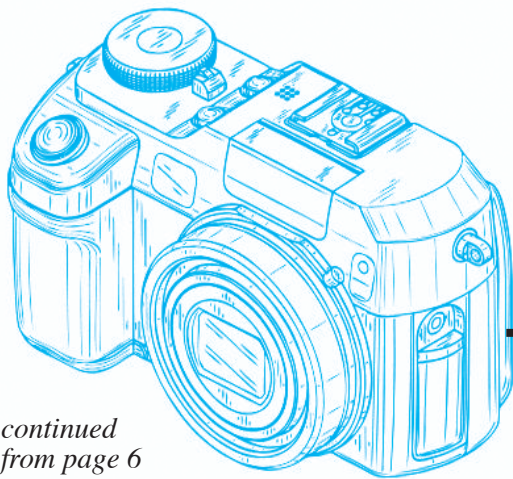
In my one year as a member of the Providence community, I’ve had the privilege to watch many of the children in our community change and grow. Like many other actively involved parents, I cherish the memories I have of all of our children. Many of us naturally take opportunities to capture these memories in photos and in video recordings. While wanting to share those photos and videos with the rest of our community, other family members, and friends is routine, we need to be cautious as to how we use the Internet to facilitate that sharing.

As an information security officer, I’m exposed to a wide range of digital threats and electronic attacks faced by my company daily. As a parent trying to help my family navigate through these issues, my experience conveys that while the Internet provides a quick and easy medium to share photos and videos, strangers can also use it to capture digital content of our children and use it for inappropriate purposes.

However, protecting the digital content of our community is not difficult. The following bullets are guidelines stated in the new PNS Privacy Protection policy that should aid members of our community in making good decisions in sharing photos and videos online.

- Do not include any identifying text with a child’s digital representation;
- Carefully review the privacy policy and the terms of service of the Internet site chosen to share digital representations. In some cases, posting an image or video to an Internet site gives the site ownership over the material and rights to use that material as it deems appropriate;
- Only use Internet sites to share digital representations that offer mechanisms to restrict further distribution through the use of web “spiders” that collect images and videos for search engines;

continued on page 7



*continued
from page 6*

- Only use Internet sites for sharing digital representations that offer the ability to require users to enter a password to view the representations;
- Notify parents of children shown in the digital representations posted on the Internet.

To further aid our community in more safely sharing digital content, I've conducted a quick survey of several leading web sites to cull out key details of how they support content sharing. Typically, the best web sites are ones that force users to enter a password to view posted content, but others also have similarly effective privacy controls such as private random addresses that ease distribution. Each of the sites listed to the right allows you to publish private content, but doing so is not necessarily set by default and several require registration to access the content. Also, while they allow you to retain ownership over any content you post, be aware that posting content may grant each site owner full license to use that content for its own purposes until you remove the content from the site.

I plan to briefly discuss our new privacy protection policy and share some thoughts with you all at Back to School Night. I welcome any questions or comments that you have and look forward to another great year at PNS.

—*Michael Figueroa, Co-Treasurer*

SITE NAME	COMMENTS	REGISTRATION REQUIRED	SHARED PASSWORDS	PHOTO SUPPORT	VIDEO SUPPORT	SOFTWARE SUPPORT
Flickr www.flickr.com	Sharing restricted to registered users; Allows the photo and video owner to strictly control sharing to known contacts; Supported file types: JPEG, GIF, PNG; Free account with 100 MB per month for storage, but only the most recent 200 pics are viewable.	N	N	Y	Y	N
KODAK Gallery www.kodakgallery.com	Private web albums supported using an unlisted Internet address generated by KODAK Gallery; Allows parents to send photo links to others without the knowledge of the photo and video owner; Supported file type: JPEG; Free account with unlimited storage for 12 months, content storing for 30 days.	N	N	Y	N	Y
Photobucket www.photobucket.com	Sharing restricted to known and anonymous users who have received an invitation with a password for entering the private album; Allows parents to send content links to others without the knowledge of the content owner, but they must still register for the service; Wide range of supported photo and video file types; Free account with 1 GB of storage, albums are limited to 50 photos, individual file size limits.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Picasa Web Albums www.picasa.com	Private web albums supported using an unlisted Internet address generated by Picasa; Allows parents to send photo links to others without the knowledge of the photo and video owner; Wide range of supported photo and video file types; Free account provides 1 GB of storage.	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Shutterfly www.shutterfly.com	Sharing restricted to known and anonymous users who have received an invitation with a group password; Allows parents to set up group sharing pages through which members can view content or post their own content; Supported file type: JPEG (Video sharing is in development); Unlimited storage space.	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Snapfish www.snapfish.com	Sharing restricted to anonymous registered users who have received a group password; Allows parents to send photo links to others without the knowledge of the content owner, but they must still register with the service; Supported file types: JPEG, 3gp (video); Unlimited storage space.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
YouTube www.youtube.com	Private video sharing restricted to identified registered users; Allows video owner to strictly control sharing to known contacts. Supports all major video file types; Free account provides 1 GB of storage.	N	N	N	Y	N

September 2008



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	School Tours 3 (see below) Back To School Night! 7:30PM (7:00PM CDO)	4 Co-op Training (see below)	5 Evening Co-op Training 7- 9:00PM	6
7	8 SCHOOL STARTS! Board Meeting 7:30PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Fire Safety Puppet Show 10:00AM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 T-Shirt Orders Due	2	3	4

.....COLORS AND SHAPES.....

.....COLORS AND SHAPES.....

.....COLORS AND SHAPES.....

SCHOOL TOURS (for new families) on Wednesday, September 3rd

We welcome all families to drop in for a short visit to introduce your child to their school and classroom (teachers will not be present). Siblings are welcome. CDO at 10AM; 2's at 10:30AM; 3's at 11AM; 3/4's at 11:30AM; 4's at 12PM

Co-op Training on Thursday, September 4th

9:30AM-11AM: 2's & 4's parents (while children attend abbreviated school day)
11AM-12:30PM: 3's & 3/4's parents (while children attend abbreviated school day)
TRAINING IS ALSO OFFERED IN THE EVENING ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 5TH FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T ATTEND DURING THE DAY.

September 17- 10:00AM

Fire Safety Puppet Show-
Presented by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue. 2's and siblings are welcome with a parent.

October 29- 11:30AM

Whoo's Awake in the Night-
The Wildlife Center of Virginia will visit with their nocturnal friends. 2's and siblings are welcome with a parent.

The Providence Pages is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Parent submissions are encouraged. Please e-mail articles to Jennifer Lyon at jennlyon@verizon.net or place them in the Newsletter Mailbox in the Big Room. Submissions are due on or before the third Monday of the month for the following month's issue. Please call 703-273-2098 or email jennlyon@verizon.net if you have any questions.