

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
9019 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE
FAIRFAX, VA 20031
www.providencenurseryschool.com

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Saturday Decemeber 3rd

Holiday Shop
9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday December 8th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

Saturday December 10th

Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday December 12th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

December 19th thru January 2nd

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday January 3rd

School Resumes

Wednesday January 18th

PNS Open House
10am-12pm

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com by December 20th for January's issue.



Dear PNS Families,

December brings with it so many reasons to celebrate! I am looking forward to the many wonderful traditions this time of year brings to PNS.

The Littlest Tree, our annual giving tree, will make its appearance in the Big Room in early December. This is a holiday tradition at PNS in which families may choose to donate new hats, mittens, scarves, and underwear to be given to needy children in the area. The kids always enjoy decorating our tree with some much needed gifts for those less fortunate.

Another PNS holiday tradition of giving is our annual Holiday Shop on December 3rd. (Reminder:

This year's Holiday Shop will be held upstairs in the church classrooms and Taylor Hall) The children are invited to buy gifts for their family members and friends from our well stocked "store." It is more than just the shopping that makes this event so special. The fundraising and social committees have set up a morning of fun for the entire family. Snacks, crafts, and even photos with Santa are all on tap this year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Finally, just for the parents, we can celebrate the holidays and gather together at our annual holiday party on Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m. Jane Millward has graciously offered to host again this year. It is sure to be a lovely evening of food, friends, and lots of laughs during our annual ornament exchange. An Evite has been sent out but if you have any questions, please feel free to email me. Mark your calendar now!

December also marks the beginning of our enrollment period at PNS. All currently enrolled families will be receiving an enrollment packet via email within the next few weeks. It is not too soon to be thinking about which class you are interested in for next year. If you aren't sure, please feel free to speak to your child's current teacher. Our teachers know more about our classes than anyone and might have some ideas for which would be the best fit for your child.

We are also thinking about next year's board of directors. Each year we have to say goodbye to board members as their children move on from PNS, leaving us with several positions to fill. Please contact me or any other board member if you would like more information about joining the PNS board.

Warmest Wishes to you all as we celebrate the holidays and welcome a brand new year,

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

It's December, and the Twos' and CDO classes will be jingling bells and laughing all the way!

First, we return from Thanksgiving break to a fun, favorite theme: the Farm. We'll play with toy barns and animals, read about farm animals and tractors, learn some familiar farm songs and nursery rhymes, and use animal puppets and costumes for pretend play.

In the following two weeks, we'll observe and enjoy some of the many delights of the winter holiday season: the sound of bells, the scent of cinnamon, the colors of decorations and wrappings, the warmth of coming in from the cold, and of course the joy of giving and sharing with others! We'll read gingerbread and holiday stories, sing "Jingle Bells" while playing real bells, and work on using scissors and other art supplies to wrap and decorate.

Gift boxes make great learning tools; we will use them to identify square shapes and notice

different sizes and colors. Albert, our stuffed lion mascot, will use them to practice his polite words for giving and receiving gifts.

As the temperatures drop outside, please be sure that your child has a warm coat with a hood or hat and gloves or mittens each school day, and label all of these outerwear items with your child's name. Whenever possible, I will take the class outside to play, or just to walk around, get some fresh air, and observe the seasonal changes. If it rains, snows, or the temperature is below freezing, we will get our exercise in the gym.

Whether your plans for Winter Break include travel, festivities, or relaxing at home, I wish you all a happy time with your families and friends!

Ms. Auten

Inclement Weather Dismissal Policy

Providence Nursery School generally follows Fairfax County Public Schools' policies regarding school openings and delays. If FCPS are closed due to inclement weather, PNS will be closed as well. The board will send an email notifying the school of any closures or delays as soon as the information becomes available. Please also listen to the local news or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-FCPS (3277) for the latest information. Also check www.fcps.edu, where you can sign up for FCPS Keep inTouch email notification system.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays

PNS Class Time	FCPS 1 hr. delay	FCPS 2 hr. delay	FCPS 1 hr. early closing	FCPS 2 hr. early closing
9:30–12:30	10:30–1:30	11:30–1:30	No change	No change
Lunch Bunch 12:30–1:30	1:30–2:30	1:30–2:30	No change	No change

We've almost come to the end of another year and we are all full of holiday spirit! Although kids are really good at making their own fun, we've got some great seasonal activities planned to make this month even more exciting.

Our first theme for December is Holiday Shapes. We see them all year, but they take on special meanings during the holidays: stars and bells, candles and evergreens, sweet treats and boxes with bows.

During the second week of the month you may notice a delicious aroma coming from the kitchen. Of course, that will be our Gingerbread Man cookies. We'll hear all about that yummy little guy who says, "Run, run, as fast as you can!" and check out some different versions of that favorite story.

Holiday Fun and Traditions will be the theme of the week before the winter break. We'll sing about Rudolph and Frosty, talk about different ways of celebrating and the Big Room will be busy with a wrapping center. Our major accomplishment for the month will be making gifts for some special people. Shhh! It's a secret!

In addition to the handmade gifts, kids who are signed up will be able to visit the Holiday Shop on December 3rd and pick out gifts for the people on their lists. Some holiday elves will be on hand to help with those big decisions.

Mark your calendars for the annual PNS holiday party for grown-ups. It's on December 8th at Jane Millward's house. Don't miss out on all the good food and camaraderie!

After all that we will be ready for the winter break and time spent with our friends and families. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and safe travels.

Miss Susan



THE GIVING TREE

Hello Friends,

I am very busy packing and making my plans to visit Providence Nursery School again this year. I have spent the past few months lifting weights so that my branches will be very strong to hold all the wonderful new hats, mittens, gloves, and most especially the underwear that you will be bringing to hang on me. I'm hoping to get a real work out this year! All your donations will be given to the boys and girls at the ACCA Child Development Center. Please remember that CHILDREN OF ALL AGES are in need!

See you very soon. I'll be spending my time in the Big Room, but just ask a teacher or another parent if you need some help finding me!

- The Littlest Tree

The holiday season is upon us – with all of its excitement and feelings of anticipation. I feel so lucky to spend this wonderful time of year with my special preschool friends. Their smiles and giggles make every day a great day at PNS! Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful preschool creations.

The first week of December will find us playing and talking and dancing with/to music! What instruments sound familiar....and can we build some of our own? ☺ There will also be lots of experimentation going on...with different tempos and different rhythms. How melodic can we be? Starting on 12/5, we will move into the world of hibernating and migrating animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, etc. will all be the topic of our circletimes. I bet we'll even "Go on a Bear Hunt" once or twice during the week. Holiday traditions will dominate discussion time during our last week of school in 2016. We'll also spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. What a month!

Our field trip for this exciting time of year will be on Wednesday, November 30th when we travel down the road to W. T. Woodson High School for the annual Tiny Tots Concert. It always marks the beginning of the holiday season for me! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! Hooray for the holidays!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be A(12/5), and a Review Day(12/12). This group is really enjoying their letter "work." They especially look forward to listening to the "Silly Song" that accompanies each letter introduction and reaching into the ????? box.

Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be on

Thursday, 12/8...and it's at my house! Yay! So look for your invitation and I do hope to see you there! The ornament exchange is not to be missed!!!

Happy, happy holidays and blessings to you and your families!

Jane Millward



December is here! This is a very busy month both at the Bianchetti house as well as at PNS. This month we'll be getting ready for the coming winter months as well as getting ready for the holiday season.

The week of November 28th sounds of **Music** fill the air. We'll make our own instruments and talk about sound as vibrations that we can see, feel and hear. Teamwork and cooperation will be necessary when we try and play instruments like an orchestra or band, concentrating on tempo and playing "together." Perfectly timed will be our field trip to the Tiny Tots Concert at Woodson on Wednesday, Nov 30th. The Letter of the Week will be M.

The week of December 5th we'll be **Getting Ready for Winter**. Migration and hibernation will be key topics of discussion as well as gathering food for the long cold months. We have a great transition song to sing about Migration and Hibernation, so keep an ear out for your little one to be singing it around the house. We will compare and contrast the different ways animals get ready for winter, including how we humans get ready too. To add to our class library, we'll be writing a new class book: Signs of Winter. A favorite activity of mine is predicting how many bears we can fit in a mitten! We'll experiment to see how some animals stay warm. The Letter of the Week will be our first vowel, A.

The week of December 12th will focus on the many **Holidays** celebrated in our homes. We'll be talking about family traditions and finding the similarities we all share in our families. Look for information to come home about our holiday homework assignment. Together you and your child will pick **any** holiday you celebrate in your home and create a page for our class book Holidays We Celebrate. Of course, some surprises will be created this week as well. We will

be reviewing the letters we have had so far this year – F, P, L, N, H, S, T, M & A.

Keep sending in those hats, warm coats and fuzzy mittens. We do try to go outside most days and your children are getting very independent at putting on their own coats, hats and gloves. We're remembering to ask a friend to help us zip *before* asking a grown-up and the children love to be able to help each other out. **Please try and put a label on each article of outerwear so we can return misplaced pieces to their rightful owners.**

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy break and I will look forward to hearing all about your children's adventures when you return on January 6th!

Ms. Ryan



WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

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

ENROLLMENT 2017-18

Schedule of Registration Process

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the next school year. I'm going to send out 2017-2018 applications in December. Our in-house enrollment starts on Monday, December 12th and closes on Friday, January 6th at 12:30pm. Please see the schedule below and let me know if you have any questions! Thank you, Kristie McCauley

December 12, 2016: In-House Enrollment Begins

January 6, 2016: In-House registration deadline (all application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm)

January 7, 2016: Enrollment begins for Alumni and Church members

January 16, 2016: Registration deadline for Alumni and Church members

January 18, 2016: Open House; Enrollment begins for new families

January 27, 2016: Registration deadline for new families (Applications received after January 27th are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis)

PARENT EDUCATION

On **December 8th and 9th**, Skill Builders will be at

PNS to conduct speech/language and sensory/visual motor screenings. Speech pathologists and occupational therapists will perform the screenings, respectively.

These screenings are optional and are parent-initiated. The cost of the speech/language screening is \$15. The sensory/visual motor screening is \$15, if the child is also receiving the speech/language screening, or \$20, if performed alone.

Forms are now due, please contact Jennifer Mack (jennifermack@gmail.com) if you are interested in a screening and have not yet turned in your forms.

ENRICHMENT

Wonderful Wednesday

What's a one-man band, you ask? Join us **December 7th at 11:30** in The Big Room to experience it firsthand. While strumming guitar, Peter's also playing harmonicas, kazoos and whistles. Then, with his feet he plays drums, cymbals, cow bell and other percussion instruments. And, on top of his own self-contained back-up band, he sings, whistles, yodels and scats. The kids will get to stand up, dance, act out, and play along too. This is definitely not a sit still and listen kind of show. Parents, siblings, 2s and CDO are welcome to join in the fun.

Also the Fire Safety Truck and Puppet Show has been rescheduled for **Wednesday December 14th**. This is always a popular enrichment activity. Parents, siblings, 2s and CDO are welcome.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

-December 2-3: Help with Holiday Shop. See Fundraising Committee to volunteer. ·

-December 10, 8:30am - 11:30am: Cleaning and Maintenance Day. If you have already fulfilled your Cleaning and Maintenance Day requirement, you can earn 3 hours of volunteer credit. ·

-December 12, 7:30pm: Board Meeting. Earn 1 hour of volunteer credit Reminder:

All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year and should have completed 4 by the end of December. Each co-oping parent is required to complete 4 parent education hours per year. Volunteer hours are not the same as parent education hours. Being up-to-date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Your current hour's status will be sent to you via email soon. If you have any questions,

please contact vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our PNS Family is growing!
 Congratulations to the Ahern Family who welcomed
 new baby John in the month of November.

AND

Congratulations to the Kamath Family who welcomed
 new baby girl Tessa just in time for Thanksgiving.

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who participated in the Barnes &
 Noble fundraiser! Thank you to the Fairfax Barnes &
 Noble for hosting our book fair. Thank you to all our
 teachers for entertaining us with terrific stories and
 music. And, of course, thank you to all of the PNS
 families and alums who shopped to support our school!

Holiday Shop will run from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Santa
 will visit for pictures but make sure you sign up for a
 time for your picture, no walk ups will be available this
 year.

There are also a few volunteer slots open to help at the
 Holiday Shop! Please sign up through the Signup
 Genius if you're interested.

We are still working on plans for a spring fundraiser.
 Let us know if you have suggestions!

Thank you for your support!

Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is
 anything you would like to have published in the
 January Newsletter please submit it by December 20th.
 If you have any suggestions or things you would like to
 see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,
 Elizabeth Carroll
newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Peter and Heather Streckfus-Green for

organizing our school picture days once again this year
 and to Liz Carroll and Alexis Loeh who volunteered to
 help with the details and to make our kids smile.

Thank you to Jennifer Mack for setting up the
 informative Parent Ed presentation and all who helped
 with setup, clean up and brought food.

Thank you to all PNS families who donated so much to
 the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry. Your
 generosity was tremendous and allowed many needy
 families in our own community to have more this
 Thanksgiving. Please remember the food pantry is
 always in need and accepts donations all year round.

Thank you to those who helped during our
 Thanksgiving Feast

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DECEMBER 2016

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Tuition Due	2	3 Holiday Shop 9:00am- 12:00pm
4	5 <i>Bathtub Party Day</i>	6	7	8 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	9	10 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am- 11:30am
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30pm	13	14 <i>International Monkey Day</i>	15	16	17
18	19 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL <i>Hanukkah</i>
25 NO SCHOOL <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL New Year's Eve

School Resumes Tuesday
January 3rd

Save the Date: PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 18, 2016

10am - 12pm

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors!