

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...

Welcome 2017! Happy New Year to all and welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday.



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 3rd
School Resumes

Monday January 9th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January 12th thru 15th
Parent Teacher Conferences
3s, 3/4s, & 4s

Monday January 16th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 18th
Open House 10am-12pm
School in session

Wednesday January 20th
NO SCHOOL
Inauguration Day

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This start of the year is a very busy time for us at PNS. We jump back into school on **Tuesday, January 3** and enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **Friday January 6th, 2017**. If you are enrolling your children in PNS next year it is essential that you do not miss this deadline as we close in-house registration and begin accepting applications from alumni and church families.

Our annual Open House will be held on **Wednesday, January 18th**. School is in session during this time so it is a great chance for prospective families to see PNS in action. The open house is also a great volunteer opportunity. Please consider volunteering your time to give tours, answer questions or watch children for other volunteers. It is a very busy morning and we need a lot of help; to volunteer contact Kristie McCauley, VP of Enrollment or Stephanie Jensen, VP Admin.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 16** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and closed on **Friday, January 20**. We will also be closed on **Monday, February 6**.

Teacher conferences are coming up this month as well for the 3s, 3/4s and 4s classes. This is a great chance to learn more about your kids. Look for sign-up directions from your teachers.

At the December board meeting, our summer camp director was announced. Thank you to Kristie McCauley for taking on the job. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment flyers will be out next month!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2017!

Take care,

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a full and festive holiday break. I have missed all of my young friends, and have all kinds of fun plans as we start out in the New Year.

For the first two weeks in January, we'll be talking about *Winter*. First, we will read and use our own senses to learn about ice and how it melts, and make icy and snowy art. We'll pretend and sing about all the fun things we can do in the snow, such as sledding and building snowmen. Then, in the second week, we'll use songs and puppets to talk about what bears and other animals do in the winter.

We'll continue to play or walk outside whenever possible, so be sure to send along those warm coats, hats and mittens labeled with your child's name on cold days. However, if it's too cold to go out, we'll head to the gym to play with hula hoops, balls, a parachute, or our soft cotton snowball collection!

The third week of January will be Dinosaur Week throughout the preschool. We will dig for bones, make dinosaur footprints, find toy dinos and dinosaur pictures *everywhere*, read and sing about dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp around and roar!

In the last week of January, our theme will be Castles. I'll get out the toy castles, and some blocks to add our own features to them. The children can dress up as knights, dragons, princes and princesses, and design their own royal crowns.

We certainly have a lot to look forward to in the New Year!

Ms. Auten



PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 18th 10am - 12pm

**Please let your family, friends, and
neighbors know!**

Welcome back!! I hope you are all ready for 2017. It's always interesting to see how much the children "grow up" over the holiday break, even though it's only a short period of time. Everyone seems to come back ready to learn and try new things.

We'll get the New Year started with a week of PJ's and Teddy Bears. We'll bring our favorite Teddys to school and see if we can teach them to dance! On another day, we will wear our pajamas to school! Our next theme is Wintery Fun. If the weather cooperates we can investigate the science of freezing and thawing. If it doesn't we can make up for it with our own winter activities indoors. The last theme of the month is so huge it needs two weeks – DINOSAURS! They will be all over the school – stomping across the art table, peeking out of the books, climbing our "dinosaur mountain" and lurking in the sensory table. What's not to love about those terrible lizards!?

Two important events occur in January, so mark your calendars. I will set aside time on January 11th and 13th for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This will give us a few uninterrupted moments to talk about your students, how they are doing and goals for the rest of the year. Look for sign-up sheets on the check-in table. Then on Wednesday the 18th, PNS will hold its annual Open House to show off our school to prospective families for next year. We will have a normal school day while our visitors come see all the great stuff we do!

So, welcome back and Happy New Year!!

Miss Susan

What's a cow's favorite holiday?

...Mooo-Year's Eve



Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope all the three/fours and their families had a memorable, restful break and that everyone's special wishes came true! Now winter has settled in around us, it's time to get back to school. My planbook is full of ideas to help us beat the winter blues. During the first week of January, we will have lots of winter excitement as each child discovers what makes winter so unique...and FUN! We'll have the opportunity to create some pretty cool "snowy" art. (I hope you like glitter!) We'll also concentrate on learning the difference between mittens and gloves! Then we're off to talk about polar animals (1/9). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. And our table work will be very wild and exciting!! ☺ Dinosaurs will roam PNS beginning on the 17th. Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! How many types of dinosaurs can you name? I bet your kids will be able to identify many types before the month is over! Then we will don our paleontologist hats starting on the 23rd as we discover and learn about dinosaur bones and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to painting our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high. There is no more popular unit in a preschooler's educational experience! On the 30th, we will move from thinking about dino bones to human bones as we begin reviewing our own body parts...head, shoulders, knees, and toes...and all that kind of thing. There will be a lot of movement going on in our classroom...it's a very active week!

There are several dates that need to be written in your new 2017 calendars. Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 11th and Thursday, January 12th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, I will send out a Sign-Up Genius for you to make your choice of conference time. I will also be sending out a note asking if there is anything specific that you would like to discuss during our time together. Also remember that there is no school on the 16th (MLK Day) and the 20th (Inauguration Day)...both FCPS holidays. We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 18th during the PNS Open House. The Open House will be going on all around us, but we will be having a regular school day.

When you coop this month, you will notice several classroom management changes. At the beginning of the month, the sign-in board will just have name tags to move...the colored symbols have been retired. Then the BIG transformation will occur about mid-month. The sign-in board will disappear totally and a new response board will take its place. Every morning a "Question of the Day" will be presented...and the kids will each get to answer it by moving their name to their chosen response.

This activity serves two purposes...each student must recognize his/her name to "vote" a response, and then each child must make an individual decision about a specific question. I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time first thing in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the cabinet!) instead of me making the choice for them. They will take the toy to the table or floor to play...and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. The Monday gang has been doing this for several weeks, and I am counting on them to model the correct behavior for the rest of the group. It is one more way for this group to become even more independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how proficient these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of each of them! Children can get frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/or herself when leaving home. (Prints and solids look lovely together, don't they? I heard that is this season's fashion statement!) Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!!! Zippering a coat is also within reach of this age group...so we're encouraging it, too! Some in the gang have already conquered this skill...and are now busy helping their friends get ready to go outside.

Calendar time is a favorite time of day...the kids are really getting into counting and figuring out the monthly pattern. Patterning is such an important pre-math skill. So when your child is looking for something to do one day, give them a handful of buttons, or coins, or whatever is handy...and ask them to make a pattern. We make it fun at school...bet you can, too! ☺

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters W(1/9), D(1/23), and B(1/30). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are starting to emerge! And they are having lots of FUN doing it! Plus every member of this gang can write their name...an awesome achievement! I am so proud of each one of them!

WOW...what a month! As usual, if anyone has any concerns or questions concerning your child, please don't hesitate to call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is! I'm looking forward to conferences! ☺ Stay tuned...

Jane Millward

January... a month that usually has me longing for warmth and a beach somewhere. Whatever the weather might be outside though, in the 4s room we'll be having fun all month long.

The first week back from break, we'll be headed out of town and off this planet, **Out in Space**. Scientific inquiries and our imaginations will be exercised this week. We'll be discussing gravity- can something exist even if we don't see it? We'll also be doing some creative writing as we think up some great space adventures. Counting planets and stars will also be part of the fun. The Letter of the Week will be R and we'll be dancing to *Rocket ship Run* and "launching" a hydraulic-powered moon rocket.

The week of January 10th, we're talking **Winter Fun**. How do we have fun in the cold and snow? What do we do to keep warm? How are we like the migrating, hibernating, active animals we discussed last month? We'll sequence snowy activities, do some "cold" projects and hopefully make some animal observations after we create some bird feeders to hang outside. Letter of the Week will be W.

The week of Jan 17th starts our two week focus on **Dinosaurs**. We'll use graphs to compare dinosaurs, talk about what we know, wonder and learned about dinosaurs, and we'll have some active games to play. We'll also talk about how the Earth was different when the dinosaurs lived and hopefully write a creative class story for our library. Paleontology will be one of the many big words we learn these two weeks. Maybe we'll even use some excavating skills ourselves. The Letter of the Week will be D for "dinosaur" of course! **No school Friday, Jan 20th.**

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.

Stay tuned for information about the "small group activity rotation" we'll be starting once a week in January as well as information about Conference Sign Ups. Volunteering to help with our Open House this month is a great way to earn volunteer hours and it is especially helpful to have our veteran parents assist with the tours. Look for more info in this newsletter if you are interested in helping.

Ms. Ryan



REMINDER

The second half of your materials fee is due with January tuition – see the tuition payment schedule or tuition invoice (available on our website) for amounts.

SUMMER CAMP

PNS offers an optional summer camp program following the regular school year. Look for enrollment flyers soon!

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Emailing the school or class google 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.

ENRICHMENT

Mad Science is back! Our little ones will get to observe science so impressive and amazing it may seem like magic January 25th at 11:30 in The Big Room. CDO, 2s, and siblings are welcome with a supervising parent at both presentations.

Maja Strollo
Enrichment Coordinator

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each family enrolled in a co-oping class must complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. CDO-only families are required to do four. We ask that you be at your halfway mark for volunteer and parent education hours by the end of January or your child's enrollment for next year may be affected. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours:

- Attend board meeting on Monday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. (counts as one hour)
- Volunteer at the PNS Open House on Wednesday, January 18, from 10 a.m. until noon. Childcare is provided for volunteers. There are volunteer spots for tour guides, check-in, and babysitting.

- Assist our Bulletin Board/Art Show coordinator with the February art show at Kings Park Library by preparing and hanging the kids' artwork.

Please email me at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com to volunteer for any of these.

Reminder: Being up to date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Please report all of your volunteer hours and parent education hours to VP Admin. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jensen at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com.

ENROLLMENT

Just a reminder that 2016-2017 applications are due Friday, January 6th!

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)

FUNDRAISING

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our fundraisers so far this school year. We raised \$400 from the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, which is more than last year. Also *thank you again* to all the volunteers who helped with Holiday Shop and made it a success. We are looking for ideas for our spring raffle, if anyone wants to suggest a business we can check with.

Thank you for your support!
Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee: Liz Claeys, Carisa Pineda and the Millward and Rosand families for all of their work leading the Barnes and Noble book fair. Thank you to Miss Susan, Miss Ryan, Ms. Auten, Mrs. Millward and Miss Allison for reading and sharing songs with us at Barnes & Noble day. Thank you to all who supported PNS through their shopping efforts both

in store and online.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Holiday Shop. Big thank yous to our Fundraising Committee: Co-chairs Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda, plus the Millward and Rosand families. Also thanks to Social Committee Chair Meghan Test, plus the Liljegren and Dinh families for providing and overseeing crafts and organizing refreshments.

Thanks also to all who helped to write labels, set up, shop with kids, provide refreshments, or clean up for Holiday Shop: the Maiwurm, Test, Chase, Blythe, Rosand, Schroeder, Heatley, Phan, Otto, Braceland, Bianchetti, Bodenhamer, Lewett, Levy, Ramstad, Parker, Kamath, Mack, Gillotte, and Phung-Strollo families.

A huge thanks to John Millward for being Santa.

Another big thank you to Jen Hamer for the awesome family and Santa pictures.

A special thank you to our aides: Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Kelly and Miss Laura who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.


EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the February Newsletter please submit it by January 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



JANUARY 2017

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1 Tuition Due 	2 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i>	3 School Resumes	4 <i>National Spaghetti Day</i>	5	6	7
8	9 Board Meeting 7:30pm	10 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	11 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	12 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	13 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	17	18 <i>PNS OPEN HOUSE</i> <i>10am-12pm</i> <i>Children Welcome</i>	19	20 NO SCHOOL <i>Inauguration Day</i>	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Opposite Day</i>	26	27	28 <i>National Kazoo Day</i>
29	30 <i>Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day</i>	31		