

The Providence Pages

Volume 43, Issue 8

April 2012

A Letter from Kelly...

It's hard to believe we are beginning the month of April. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and there is already a "buzz" about what the kids will be doing to keep busy over summer break. While I am excited about the change of season and all that lies ahead at PNS, I can't help but feeling a little sad that another school year is winding down.

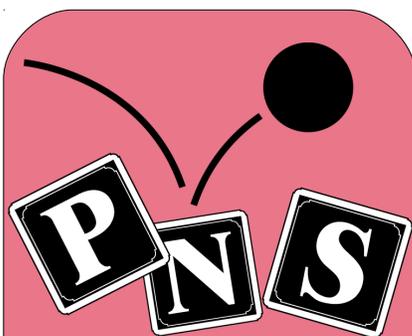
This has been a busy year at PNS. We've accomplished so much— thanks in no small part to the dedication and hard work of our board members. I'd like to recognize those who will not be returning to next year's board: Marta Davis, Ryan Bianchetti, Emmy Cade, Angie VonAncken, Terri Radziewski, Prassu Mehta, and Kelley Raich. They have all worked so hard and always went above and beyond what was required of them to make PNS such a special place for our children. I can't thank them enough for all they've done this past year and all their years at PNS. Not only did I have the pleasure of working with them on the board, but I've also gotten to know each of them and their families on a personal level. By far, the best part of being on this year's board was having the chance to call each of these ladies my friend. I'd especially like to thank my co-president, Marta Davis. It was Marta's calm nature, good sense, and constant willingness to lend an ear and offer advice that guided the board through many difficult decisions this year. She has been an invaluable asset to PNS in all her years serving on the board. I am excited to be continuing on as President for another year, but I know it will be no easy task without Marta.

I can't forget our treasurer, Sherry Steeley, and our fundraising co-chair, Liz Claeys. I'm extremely grateful they will both be returning to this year's board. Also joining us will be Jennifer Mack, VP Administration; Kyle Durbin, VP Enrollment; Susanne Fitch, VP Forms; Alexandra Erickson, Fundraising Co-Chair; Laura Braceland, Assistant Treasurer; and Jessica Guillot, Secretary. I welcome them all to this year's board and look forward to another exciting year!

Please come say hello to our new board as they officially take over on Monday, April 9th at 7:30 p.m. This is a great chance to introduce yourself and share any thoughts you may have on the coming school year. Also, if you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendar for our annual spring coffee on April 30th. This is the first mandatory meeting for the new school year. It gives us a chance to learn new things about our school and share our experiences with newly enrolled families. It's always nice to see many familiar faces and to get together with our future class parents for the first time. Hope to see you there!

Happy April and Happy Spring!

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

**Monday, April 2 –
Friday April, 6
NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)**

**Monday, April 9
No School (FCPS Holiday)
Board Meeting, 7:30pm ,
New E-Board Takes Over**

**Monday, April 16
CDO Conferences**

**Tuesday, April 17
3/4s & 4s Conferences ****

**Wednesday, April 18
3s & 3/4s Conferences**

**Thursday, April 19
2s Conferences**

**Friday, April 20
CDO & 3s Conferences**

**Saturday, April 28
Final Clean-Up/Maintenance
Day of the school year**

**Monday, April 30
Spring Coffee**

****Please note: The 3/4s conferences were originally scheduled for April 18th & 19th. Due to a field trip conflict, they will now be held on April 17th & 18th.**

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CDO & 2s

side!

We'll begin the month by studying birds. We'll lace cheerios to make some treats for our feathered friends.



We'll also make feathered headbands and practice our scissors skills while feathering paper. We have some birds nesting by the school's back door. We'll keep an eye on their progress as they prepare for spring babies.

We will talk about feelings the week of April 16th. At the art table we'll make happy, sad, mad and surprised faces. We'll ask Obie what he does when he feels sad. The puppet theatre will be in our classroom as we act out different emotions.

Then we'll focus on spring and plants. If the weather allows, we'll take a walk along our nature trail to look for signs of spring. We'll also make some smashed flower art. This week we'll be gardening at the sensory table as well as planting our own seeds and (hopefully) watching them grow.



I'll miss you over spring break- April 2nd to April 9th. My family is driving to Florida to visit the grandparents. I'll return relaxed and ready to chat with you during our spring conferences, which are scheduled for April 19th

in the 2s class and for April 16th and 20th in CDO. Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet during the first week of April.

Mark your calendars-you are invited to join us for a special Mother's Day brunch on May 10th in the 2s class and on May 11th in CDO.



As you look ahead and plan your spring schedule, leave time for relaxing with the kids. Downtime is unstructured; child directed "go play" time. It's suggested that children have an hour of downtime a day through ten years old. With the pace of life, downtime can be hard to come by. Here are a few tips to get you started.

- **Turn off the TV, Video games and Computer** - Screentime is anti-downtime. When children are in front of a screen they are still being entertained. Set guidelines for limiting screen time and then really stick to it.
- **Get them outside** - Outside play provides trees, sticks, rocks, puddles and dirt. There's also room for tag and throwing balls.
- **A little boredom is good** - Given space and time children will learn how to entertain themselves. Have patience, this is a good skill to develop. When children are given free, unstructured time they are often the most creative.



Mrs. B

3s

April is a short month at PNS this year, but it will be a fun filled one. It's nice outside and everyone's in a good mood! We've got lots of outdoorsy things to do, as well as exciting things for indoors, too.

After Spring Break our theme is literally for the Birds! We'll fly and tweet, make some bird feeders and learn what makes birds so special. We'll also repaint the bird houses that go on the poles near the back door and the playground.

Next we'll investigate Bug life. We'll see some familiar bugs in our "Bug in a Rug" game, learn about the butterfly life cycle and maybe do some insect hunting on the playground.

The last week of April is all about Ponds. We'll find out about all the creatures that dig, swim and fly around there. Listen for the Speckled Frog song and look for fly swatter art and bubble wrap prints that look like frog eggs. We will take a field trip on April 27th to Jerome "Buddy" Ford Nature Center. If the weather cooperates, we can hike down a trail to the pond and see if any of its inhabitants are around.



Wednesday, the 18th and Friday, the 20th, are the dates for our second parent/teacher conferences. We can compare our notes from the last conferences and see what lies ahead. I've noticed a definite increase in the amount of conversation during the school day. The children are expressing opinions and solving their own problems as they play together – two great skills to acquire. Keep up the good work everyone.

Take a deep breath of fresh air and enjoy the spring weather!!

Miss Susan

3/4s

It's April...and spring has sprung at Providence! It's time to spend time outdoors and enjoy all the "growing" that's going on around us! The playground seems to be the favorite place to be and the kids are so happy to be outside and MOVING!!!

Spring Break week starts off the month! Happy vacation, everyone! And when we return on April 10th, there will be lots of planting and digging in the dirt because it's "vegetable garden" week. So leave those pretty, new spring clothes in the closet, please. We may fingerprint with garden gloves and count and sort lots of different types of seeds. We'll also learn all about what it takes to plant a vegetable garden...and what we need to make those vegetables grow!

Then on the 16th, we'll begin our unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? Who or what lives there? During the week of the 23rd, the kids will also begin to familiarize themselves with some of the bugs that live in, and around, ponds. We'll talk about which insects are helpful or harmful...and what bugs live outside or (yuck!) inside. And wait until you see what projects come home... what does creepy, crawly mean to you?



The week of April 29th will be filled with talk of our community and the people who help us in our neighborhoods. The question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" might find its way into our circletime. I have lots of interesting books and puzzles to share this week...discussions will be very interesting with this group, I'm sure!!!

There is a field trip in the plans to Hidden Oaks Nature Center to learn more about bugs. Details will follow.

Spring conferences for the 3/4s will take place on Tuesday, April 17th and Wednesday, April 18th.

Miss Phyllis and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so there will be a minimum of disruption for the children.

Letters for the Monday gang will be N (16th), K (23rd), and J (30th). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet!

Here's to warm weather and smiling faces!!!

Jane

4s

The April forecast calls for showers of learning and frequent downpours of fun! Just pop open your umbrella and join in this month's flood of fun.



Our units of study this month will be the Vegetable Garden, Pond Life, Bugs and Birds.

We will play and pretend that we are growing vegetables and selling these yummy veggies as we attempt to change an area of the big room into a vegetable stand. We will also dip some veggies into paint to make veggie prints. This week is a golden opportunity to send those yummy veggies in for a snack.

The week of April 17th finds us taking the plunge as we attempt to make a Pond come to life. We will have a frog's eye view of life in a small pond. We will be swimming like fish, hopping and diving like frogs, crawling and climbing like insects and slithering like snakes. I'm sure to have some eager beavers, who also live in ponds, as the sandbox is transformed into a beaver dam.

Birds and Bugs is our last week's theme of April. We will be marching like ants and singing like birds.

On Tuesday April 17th I will be holding year-end conferences. A sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway. I don't believe that I'm even using the word year-end how is that possible?

Happy April to All! Love,

Judy



VCPC Awards



Outstanding Teacher Award for 2012 - 2013

We are proud to announce that Fatema Kanchan is the winner of this year's Outstanding Teacher Award. Fatema, or Mrs. K as she is known around school, has been a PNS aide for 4 years and currently assists Miss Susan in the 3s class. Fatema always has a smile ready for her students in the morning and plenty of hugs to give throughout the day. Whether she is assisting with art projects, reading stories, or keeping everyone together on their daily trip to the playground, the students can count on Mrs. K for her unwavering patience and kindness. Outside of school, Fatema is a busy mom of two. Her daughter, Sonia, is a PNS grad while her son, Jai is in the 3/4s class. Her family is lucky to have her, and we are honored to have her as part of our PNS family as well!

Outstanding Parent Award for 2012 - 2013

We are proud to announce that Emmy Cade, mom to Garrison in the 4s class, is the winner of this year's Outstanding Parent Award. Emmy has served on the PNS executive board as VP of Enrollment for the past two years. Everyone at PNS knows Emmy, but at first, most are surprised to learn she is a mom who volunteers her time to the school. She accepts phone calls at all hours and always makes herself available to give tours and answer questions. Emmy has a way of making the somewhat daunting enrollment process a pleasant and positive experience for anxious parents sending their children to preschool for the first time. For this, Emmy has been an outstanding board member. And for her kindness, generosity, and caring nature, she is an outstanding person. She will definitely be missed at PNS as Garrison moves on to Kindergarten this fall!

Wonderful Wednesdays!

Back by popular demand is the Harley Davidson Petting Zoo! The "hogs" will come outdoors in the parking lot on Wednesday, April 11th at about 11:30am. Parent-supervised 2s and CDO students are welcome to attend.

Tuition

Please remember that April tuition is due April 1. Since the 1st falls on a weekend this month and there is no school April 2 – 9, please do your best to pay prior to spring break or on the first day back to school. You can also mail your payment to the school during break. You will be responsible for a \$25 late fee if payment is received after April 10th.

Also, NO tuition payment is due in May since everyone paid May 2011 tuition payment last year. Those paying lunch bunch monthly, however, need to pay their May lunch bunch by May 10th.

If you are enrolled in our summer school program, that tuition IS due May 1. Thank You!

Terri Radziewski/Laura Braceland

Fundraising

Our Spring Fundraiser was an enormous success! A huge thank you to our Fundraising Co-Chairs, Prassu Mehta and Liz Claeys and their committee, the Rudnicki and Erickson families, for all their hard work. The Rocknoceros concert was a fun, family event with great music and awesome prizes. Everyone had a blast! Thank you to all who helped with set-up, clean-up, and refreshments: Terri & Michael Radziewski, Kelley & David Raich, Angie & Curt VonAncken, Emmy & Tyler Cade, Jebb Mann, Laura and Joe Braceland, and of course Mr. Richard. Whether you contributed to your class basket, donated your own time or services to the raffle, contacted local businesses for donations, or just bought tickets to see the show, your efforts were greatly appreciated. The entire school contributed to the success of this event and we cannot thank you enough!



Maintenance Day

Saturday, April 28th 8:30AM—12:30PM

This is the *last* opportunity to fulfill your clean-up/maintenance day requirement; every co-oping family must attend one clean-up/maintenance day per child in a co-oping class. If you have already attended your share, you can receive volunteer time for helping out with this one.



If you do not think you will be able to attend, you can pay a buy-out fee of \$40. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Bianchetti or Jennifer Mack.

Volunteer Opportunities

There is still plenty of time to finish up your volunteer requirement for this school year. Please contact Ryan Bianchetti or Jennifer Mack if you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below or if you have questions about your volunteer time.

- Attend the board meeting on April 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Volunteer for Wednesday Lunch Bunch on April 11 (your child must already be in Wednesday Lunch Bunch)
- Help set up/cleanup for Spring Coffee on April 30 at 7:30 p.m.
- Come to an extra Clean Up Day on April 28

Thank You!

Thank you to Diane Dalton who subbed during the 3/4s brunch and to Michelle Hejl for covering a Wednesday lunch bunch. Thank you to Kristen Konisky for some difficult but much needed repairs to some of our dress-up costumes. Thank you to Emily Tuszunska and Kristen Konisky for working on the VCPC award nominations and for their dedication to VCPC and PNS throughout the year. Thank you to Michelle Hejl for pulling books for our teachers each week and to Qing Luo for helping out with the library assistant job for the second half of the year. And finally, thanks to our outgoing e-board members for all their work this year: Marta Davis, Ryan Bianchetti, Emmy Cade, Angie VonAncken, Kelley Raich, Terri Radziewski, and Prassu Mehta. You will be missed!

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 NO	3 SCHOOL	4 *****	5 SPRING	6 BREAK	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday Board Meeting 7:30pm	10	11	12	13 	14
15	16 CDO Conferences	17 3/4s & 4s Conferences	18 3s & 3/4s Conferences	19 2s Conferences	20 CDO & 3s Conferences	21
22 	23	24	25	26	27	28 Final Maintenance Day
29	30 Spring Coffee	31				

