

The Providence Pages

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September 2012

A Letter from Kelly...

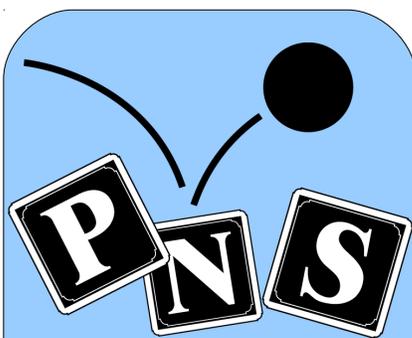
Wow – it's September already, one of my favorite months! This time of year always brings back memories of the start of school as a child. Now, as a parent, I see the excitement in my own children as they prepare to meet new teachers, new friends, and have many new experiences. Of course along with this excitement comes a bit of apprehension, both for the kids and for us as parents. Whether you are looking forward to some much deserved alone-time after a busy summer with the kids or holding back tears at the thought of leaving your child at school for the first time, you've made a wonderful decision by becoming a member of Providence Nursery School. I welcome you all to the 2012 - 2013 school year and encourage you to make the most of your time here. As part of a cooperative preschool, we are all afforded the great opportunity to play an important role in our child's first school experience.

This year, we are excited to have two new aides as members of our outstanding staff. I find it comforting that these "new faces" are actually former PNS parents whose children have moved on to the exciting world of elementary school. Both have spent several years as co-oping parents and have gotten to know the school quite well as members of the executive board. We welcome Ryan Bianchetti (mom to PNS grads Liam and Henry), our new aide in the CDO class, and Emmy Cade (PNS alum Garrison's mom) who will be helping as our floating aide for the first few months of school and filling in as a sub when needed. We are also excited to have a new music teacher on board. Many of you already know Allison Hagner, mom to Maggie in the 3/4s, Grace in the 2s, and PNS grad Jack. Allison has been a PNS parent for the past three years and is now excited to take on her new role as Ms. Allison, leading the kids in music class each week.

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us here at PNS. Please read through the newsletter for important information on all our upcoming events. We welcome your contributions to future editions of the newsletter. Please feel free to share anything you feel would benefit the PNS community whether it is a new healthy and kid-friendly recipe, an announcement of some sort, or a favorite learning tool you'd like to share. All newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of each month and can be emailed to me(kellyvolciak@yahoo.com) or our newsletter editor, Allison Hagner (ahagner@yahoo.com).

I hope all of you and your children experience a smooth transition into the new school year. If you have any questions or concerns along the way, please feel free to email or call me. We have a dedicated board of directors who are always eager to help and a terrific teaching staff as well. I am honored to be working with each of them and look forward to getting to know you and your children while serving as President this year.

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

Wednesday, September, 5th

Open House – Big Room

(See calendar 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, 6th

Co-op Training & Abbreviated School Day

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

Monday, September 10th

First Day of School – 9:30 am
Co-op Training 6:30-7:30 PM
(Alternate date)
September Board Mtg-7:30 pm

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

CDO & 2s

The Bengtson's had a great summer. We spent July at the pool. In August we went to Pennsylvania and Florida visiting grandparents. We ended the month with a canoe/camping trip in Minnesota. 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. Ms. Allison will lead our Music class on Mondays and Thursdays. Obie will have gifts and surprises for us at circle time. Our parents will pick us up after the goodbye song.

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. 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 theme for the week of September 17th will be the color blue. We'll search the playground for hidden blue

treasures. During circle time we'll count and compare dark blues and light blues. We'll make blue finger paintings and color collages with different hues of blue. On September 20th in the 2s and on September 21st in CDO, Mrs. B will bring in blueberries for the children to eat. Parents, please try to have your child wear something blue one day this week.

We'll be talking about the color yellow during the week of September 27th. We'll make yellow paintings and color yellow flowers. We'll also make yellow suns with popsicle sticks. We'll sort out all our yellow Legos. Obie will wear his yellow shirt this week. Please try to have your child wear something yellow one day this week.

A few reminders: Each day, please check your child's back pack 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 and 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 fifth and seventh 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

Back To School Reminders

- NO NUTS! PNS is a nut aware school. This means no peanuts or tree nuts in the school, on the playground, or at school events held after hours. Please also check with your teacher and other parents in your class before bringing any snacks or treats to share.
- Please send a complete change of clothes labeled with your child's name on the first day of school. Clothes should be appropriate for the season and changed for a new set when necessary.
- Check your child's backpack each day for any important notes from teachers as well as their newly created artwork.
- Weather permitting; playground time is a part of every day. Your child should be dressed appropriately in comfortable clothing. Open-toed shoes are not a good idea for the playground since pea gravel between the toes does not feel good!
- In order to avoid hurt feelings, please leave toys at home unless requested by your teacher for show and tell.

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. It's been a long, hot summer and I'm ready to do some "cool" stuff with all my new friends.

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 things, 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?



Please remember to bring a backpack large enough to hold papers and art projects and check it each day for important information. Also send a complete change of seasonal clothes (shoes, too) in a resealable plastic bag with your child's name clearly printed on the outside. This will make those little accidents much easier to deal with. Toys and special treasures are best left at home so we don't have any disputes or hurt feelings.

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

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

Welcome to the 3/4s class! I am looking forward to the start of this school year and, most importantly, I am excited about having your child 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) throughout the month during our circle times. 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

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 11th. 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 18th-21st, 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 11th.

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

Judy

Lunch Bunch

There are still openings for lunch bunch on most days. Held immediately after school from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM, lunch bunch gives children in the 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes an additional hour of fun in their school day and an opportunity to meet new friends from other classes. Children bring their own lunch and enjoy eating and playing in a supervised small group setting. You can drop in by the day (with teacher permission as long as there is space) or enroll on a monthly basis.

Please contact Laura Braceland at bracelandla@verizon.net for more information.

Enrollment Fees

\$9 – daily drop in fee (please check with teacher in the morning to be sure there is space)

\$28/month – 1 day/week

\$50/month – 2 days/week

\$72/month – 3 days/week

\$94/month – 4 days/week

Tuition

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Please pay on time and include your tuition invoice, printable from the forms page on the PNS website. A grace period for all payments extends through the 10th of each month. Payment not received by then is subject to a \$25 late fee. Please make your checks payable to "Providence Nursery School, Inc." Your child's name must be printed on the memo line. Put all the tuition checks in the black PNS mailbox in the hallway by the double doors to the Big Room or in the purple box in the Assistant Treasurer's mailbox in the music room.

Feel free to bring September's payment to Back To School Night. Many families choose to prepay their entire tuition for the year in the September payment (and receive a 5% discount for doing so). If you would like to take advantage of this, please email our Assistant Treasurer Laura Braceland at bracelandla@verizon.net for your total. Also remember that you have already paid your May 2013 tuition and half of your materials fee as your deposit.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Enrichment!

Fall is here; my favorite time year! Rich oranges (my favorite color) lighting up the trees and wonderful changes in the air; everything looks and smells warm and promising. Little minds lighting up, back in school. Autumn: even the word sounds smart.

Fall also ushers in Wonderful Wednesday Enrichment. I am excited to bring in some old and new opportunities for our little ones this year. In September, on the 19th, we welcome back the Fire Safety Puppet show and truck visit. On October 24th, we will welcome back Kaydee Puppets, who will perform "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." In November we will have the Wildlife Center present "Wild Winter Worlds," hopefully a new and exciting program for the children.

I hate to give away all my secrets, so will save my winter and spring plans, but I do hope children, teachers and parents alike enjoy what is looking to be a truly Wonderful series of Wednesdays this year. 2s students and siblings of all students are always welcome to join us!
-Aimee Emmerich



Fundraising

We are looking forward to another fun year of PNS fundraising events that help our school and strengthen our preschool community. PNS apparel will be available at Back-to-School night, and all year long by request. We will also have a volunteer sign-up sheet at Back-to-School and an informal survey about potential fundraising events. (Names on the volunteer list will simply be used to develop an e-mail list when we need help with events. Signing up does NOT commit you to volunteering for anything in particular.)

During the last week of September, we will also hold a Posh Pouches fundraiser. Posh Pouches are reusable bags in a variety of fabrics with eco-friendly lining - they come in several sizes from small to large. Great for snacks, toys, wet clothes, and gift giving. Flyers about this fundraiser will go home in September and be distributed via PNS all e-mail with instructions about how to make your purchase contribute to the school.

Holiday Shop forms are in your Back to School packets. Please fill them out and return them with payment by October 1 so we have enough time to start shopping for items.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Liz Claeys (3/4s class) or Alex Erickson (2s and 4s classes). Thanks for your support!

Enrollment

We still have openings in the 3s class. If you know of anyone who might be interested in enrolling their children at PNS, please have them contact Kyle Durbin at kddburb@verizon.net. It is not too late to enroll!

Summer Babies

The latest addition to the Claeys family arrived on Thursday, June 21st about 9:30 pm. Liz and Eric welcomed son Becket Ronald Claeys, who was 8 lb 9 oz and 21 inches long. Becket joins big sister Noelle (3/4s) and brothers Joesph and William, both PNS alumni.

Congratulations also to Holly Lawson and Jorge Porrata who welcomed a baby boy, Ari Gabriel, on August 15 at 10:01 a.m. Mom, dad, and big brother Kamilo (3/4s) are all doing well!

Kinder KickIt!

Fall soccer kicks off on Wednesday, September 19th and runs until Wednesday, October 31st. Soccer is held on the lawn behind the church and is open to PNS students enrolled in the 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes. The soccer lessons run from 1:45 until 2:15 for 6 weeks. There is no soccer and no school on Wednesday, October 17th.

To sign up for soccer, email Kelly Volciak at kellyvolciak@yahoo.com and request an application. The application and a check for \$90 made payable to Soccer Club Management is due on Monday, September 17th.



of each month at 7:30 pm in the Big Room at school.

If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact Jennifer Mack at jennifermack@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the August clean up & maintenance day: Sam Crowley (maintenance chair), Jorge Rosand, Rick Brown, Tina Fu, Spencer Brooks, Marbin Pineda, Kris Mack, Simonette delaTorre, Thad Lurie, Chris Hagner, Jason Fogarty, and Thai Nguyen. And a special thanks to Jenni Buechler for coordinating the clean-up and providing refreshments.

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 two. Here are some ideas to help you get a head start on completing those hours.

- Bring a snack or baked goods to Back-To-School Night or other school functions. Contact Michelle Danis, our social chair, at danis.michelle@gmail.com for more information.
- Spend an hour raking pea gravel on the playground. This should be done weekly. Email Stephanie Hagopian at s_hagopian@yahoo.com if you would like to help with playground maintenance.
- Check in with teachers who might need help preparing for art projects or need other assistance in the classrooms.
- Substitute for lunch bunch on occasional Wednesdays. Jennifer Mack (jennifermack@gmail.com), VP admin, will have a list of dates soon.
- Attend an extra clean-up/maintenance day during the school year. One attendance is required per child enrolled in a co-oping class, but we could always use the extra help.
- Assist the fundraising committee with upcoming events. Check with Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson for details.
- Attend a board meeting held the second Monday

Thanks to the Class Reps for their efforts organizing co-op schedules and play dates over the summer and for getting co-op schedules out not only on time but early: Tiffany Link (CDO), Natalie Gray (2s), Lauren Etzler (3s), Pamela & Thad Lurie (3/4s) and Jennifer Brooks (4s).

Thank you to Stephanie Hagopian for organizing pick-up & delivery of our new sofa and to Rick Brown & Sam Crowley for doing the heavy lifting.

Thank you to Jane Millward, Sue Bengston, and Jennifer Mack for serving on our hiring committee.

Thank you to all our PNS Board members for their hard work this summer. Whether they were giving tours of the school, checking mail and messages, working on family jobs, collecting forms, drafting budgets or keeping track of deposits, they spent much of their time this summer preparing for the new school year. Thank you to Jennifer Mack, Sherry Steeley, Laura Braceland, Liz Claeys, Alex Erickson, Susanne Fitch, Kelley Raich, and Kyle Durbin.



Also, a huge thank you to our wonderful teachers! These ladies barely take a break over the summer. As soon as one school year comes to a close, they get busy making plans, coming up with new ideas, and collecting supplies for the next. Their hard work and dedication to our school does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated!

September 2012

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