

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Natalie...

Welcome 2015! Happy New Year to all and welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and peaceful vacation. We celebrated with family and friends and took some time to relax as well.



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 5th
School Resumes

Monday January 12th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January 13th thru 16th
Parent Teacher Conferences
3s, 3/4s, & 4s

Monday January 19th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 21st
Open House 10am-12pm
School in session

**Friday January 30th &
Monday February 2nd**
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday

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



The New Year is a busy time for PNS. We jump back into school on **Monday, January 5th** and enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **January 9th, 2015 by 12:30pm**. If you are enrolling your children in PNS again 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 21st**. 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 kids for other volunteers. It is a very busy morning and we need all the help we can get, so if you would like to volunteer contact Jennifer Brooks, VP of Enrollment.

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 sheets from your teachers.

At the December board meeting, our summer camp co-directors were announced. Thank you to Kristin Rule and Michelle Lewis for taking on the job. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment flyers will be out next month!

Finally, we have a few school closings this month: January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. day, and January 30th and February 2nd for FCPS holidays.

Here's to another great year!

Take care,

Natalie

CDO & 2's

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a full and happy holiday break, and that you are as ready as I am to get back to school. I have missed all of my young friends!

During the first week of January, our theme will be Snow. We will read and learn about snow and how it melts, and about all the fun things we can do in the snow, such as sledding and building snowmen. We will use our senses to examine ice, and use our imaginations as we pretend to sled, skate, and ski.

For the second week of the month we will be talking about bears -- both *real* bears, which hibernate in the winter, and *teddy* bears, which will join our class for some Big Room and Music activities!

The last two weeks of January will be all about Dinosaurs. We will dig for bones, make dinosaur footprints and "dinosaur egg" art, read and sing about dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp and roar.

This month I anticipate seeing all of the beautiful, winter-themed works of art your children will create, and plan to borrow one or two pieces from each child so that everyone can enjoy looking at them in the classroom and at the annual Art Show at the library! All of the borrowed art will be returned after display.

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

Ms. Auten



Reminder

Speech/Language and Sensory/Visual Motor Screenings

Therapists from Skill Builders will conduct screenings at PNS on January 22nd and 23rd. If you would like your child to participate in one or both screenings, please complete both the permission and the applicable parent forms. Return them, along with payment, to the Parent Education mailbox in the music room. You may give your child's teacher the applicable teacher form(s) to complete as well. All forms should be returned by Monday, January 12th. If you did not receive the necessary forms or have any questions regarding the screenings, please contact Kristen Browning.

Welcome back!! I hope you are all ready for 2015. 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 Teddy to school and have a Teddy Bear "Picnic". On another day, we will wear our pajamas to school! There is an enrichment activity planned for the 7th: a visit from Wildlife Ambassadors. 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!?! On the 28th, we are looking forward to a visit from a veterinarian and vet technician.

Two important events occur in January, so mark your calendars. I will set aside time on January 14th and 16th 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 21st, 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



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 plan book 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 (1/12). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circle time. And our table work will be very wild and exciting!! 😊 Finally, during the last two weeks of the month (1/20 & 1/26), dinosaurs will roam PNS. Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! We will don our paleontologist hats starting on the 26th as we discover and learn about dinosaurs 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! ROAR.....

There are several dates that need to be written in your new 2015 calendars. Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 14th and Thursday, January 15th. 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 have a sign-up sheet on our table for you to make your choice of conference time. Also remember that there is no school on the 19th(MLK Day) and February 2nd...both FCPS holidays. We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 21st 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. The sign-in board will look totally different now that everyone recognizes their own name (and most classmates!). Every day a different question will be presented...and the kids will each get to answer it by moving their name to their chosen response. 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. 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! 😊

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'll be encouraging it, too! Some in the gang have already conquered this skill...and are now busy helping their friends get ready to go outside.

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters R(1/5), W(1/12), and D(1/26)). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their pre-reading skills are starting to emerge! And they are having lots of FUN doing it!

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 week of January 12, 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.

The week of Jan 19 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.

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 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 yahoo 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

Wonderful Wednesday

As the temperatures dip and snow begins to fall, what happens to the animals? Our kids will get to explore migration, adaptation and hibernation on January 7th with Wildlife Ambassadors. Best of all they get to meet some animal friends too! To add to the fun, VCA Annandale Animal Hospital will be sending us a Veterinarian and a Technician on January 28th to talk about different kinds of pets and how to care for them. Rumor has it a few furry friends might make an appearance as well! Get ready for the “Can we get a puppy/kitty?” barrage at home. Both presentations will be at 11:30 am in the big room. CDO, 2s, and siblings are welcome with a supervising parent.

Bryna Erickson
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 two. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- We need one more volunteer to bring dessert for the VCPC/Dr. Ciardi luncheon on Wed Jan 7th.
- Parents may attend board meeting on Mon January 12 for one volunteer hour.
- We need volunteers to give tours and help with other duties at Open House on Wed Jan 21st. Please see Jennifer Brooks if you would like to help.
- We also need volunteers to help with the art show to prep the art, to help set up and to take down.

Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year and should have completed 4 by the end of December. Each cooping 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. Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to VP Admin.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen, VP Admin. vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

ENROLLMENT

Just a reminder that 2015-2016 applications are due Friday, January 9th!

January 9, 2015: In-House registration deadline (all application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm)

January 10, 2015: Enrollment begins for Alumni and Church members

January 18, 2015: Registration deadline for Alumni and Church members

January 21, 2015: Open House; Enrollment begins for new families

January 30, 2015: Registration deadline for new families (Applications received after January 30th will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis)

Mid February 2015: All families will be notified of their Enrollment status (acceptance or wait list)

March 1, 2015: Payment of advance tuition (May 2016 & half material fee) is due for all new families

April 27, 2015: Spring Coffee. Mandatory meeting for all returning and new families

June 1, 2015: Payment of advance tuition (May 2016 & half materials fees) is due for all returning families

June 1, 2015: Deadline to return all completed forms to the VP of Forms

FUNDRAISING

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our fundraisers so far this school year. We raised \$161.08 from the Color Me Mine fundraiser and \$696.77 from the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, which is more than last year. Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped with Holiday Shop and made it a success.

Thank you for your support!

Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

PARENT EDUCATION

Save the dates:

On Monday, February 9th, 6:15-7:15 PM (right before the monthly board meeting), Maureen Bush, a PNS alumna parent and Fairfax County teacher, will present a talk on Kindergarten Readiness. If you plan to attend and have any questions that you would like her to address, feel free to e-mail them to Kristen Browning. Location of the talk will be announced soon. Please join us for valuable information regarding your rising kindergartener, light refreshments, and one Parent Education hour.

On Tuesday, April 7th, 9:45-11:15 AM, we will have our final Parent Education talk of the school year. Dr. Rene Hackney will present a talk on Teaching Personal Safety to Children. She will discuss general guidelines for teaching children about safety across childhood, with topics including strangers, water safety, privacy, and leaving older children home alone. Younger siblings are welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served. Parent Education hours can be earned as well. Location of the talk will be announced.

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee for all of the hard work they put in to Barnes & Noble and the Holiday Shop, Carisa and Marbin Pineda, Bridgett and Matt Benov, Anna Fiser and especially to Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson for organizing and leading the events. Thanks to everyone who helped at Barnes & Noble, including Jane Millward, Susan Patton, Ryan Bianchetti, Jessie Auten, Allison Hagner, Amanda Morgan, Tariq Ahmad, Bryna Erickson, Emily Chitnis, and Carol Ann Forrest. Thank you to everyone who supported PNS through their shopping efforts both in store and online. Thank you to everyone who helped with Holiday Shop: Amanda Morgan, Liz Casteel, Bryna Erickson, Michelle Lewis, Emily Chitnis, Carol Ann Forrest, Chris and Leah McAllister, Jocelyn Crawford, Melissa Ahern, Meredyth and Charles Havasy, Emily and James Sherron. Thank you to the Social Committee for their work on the Holiday Shop: Rosalie Hallmark, Laura Close, Beth Ann Clare. A huge thanks to John Millward for being Santa. Another huge thanks to Jennifer Brooks for the awesome family and Santa pictures.

Thank you to Rosalie Hallmark for organizing this year's holiday party and to the Millward family for hosting. It was a fun one!

Thanks to all who donated to the Littlest Tree project and food drive and a huge thanks to all who donated.

Thank you to the Class Reps: Elizabeth Boland, Maria Burel, Marisa Chartier, Elizabeth Carroll, Lori Thomas and Simonette dela Torre for organizing the class gifts for teachers and aides and also for finishing the spring co-op schedules.

Thank you to Kelley Raich, Jennifer Brooks, Kristin Rule, Beth Ann Clare, and Jane Millward for serving on the tuition committee.

Thank you to Michelle Lewis and Kristin Rule for volunteering to serve as summer school co-directors.

Thank you to the maintenance committee and all the volunteers who helped during our last clean-up day: Christina Pak, Robin Kang, Devin Blythe, Kristen Konisky, Paul Erickson, Sol Fiser, Kevin Burel, Lesya Cely and Charles Havasy.

A special thank you to our aides: Phyllis Bruyette, Emmy Cade, Janet Mays and Kelly Volciak who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.

JANUARY 2015

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Tuition Due	2	3 <i>Festival of Sleep Day</i>
4	5 School Resumes	6	7	8	9	10 <i>House plant appreciation day</i>
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30pm	13 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	14 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	15 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	16 <u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u>	17
18	19 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21 <i>PNS OPEN HOUSE</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>Chocolate Cake Day</i> 	28 <i>National Kazoo Day</i>	29	30 NO SCHOOL FCPS HOLIDAY	31