

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Natalie...



Mark your Calendar

Saturday Decemeber 5th

Holiday Shop
9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday December 10th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

Saturday December 12th

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

Monday December 14th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

December 21st thru January 1st

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Monday January 4th

School Resumes

Wednesday Janurary 20th

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 5th. 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 10th 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. Check your email, a Signup Genius has been sent out with more details.

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,

Natalie

CDO & 2's

It's December, and the Twos' and CDO classes will be "laughing all the way" as we start the month off with some fun themes, beginning with Pizza! We'll make pizza art, play with pizza toys, and read about where dough comes from and how pizza is made. We'll also do some pizza math, using pizzas and pizza boxes to observe circle and square shapes, and to practice comparing larger and smaller sizes.

The following week, we'll move onto another fun, favorite topic, Trains! We'll set up some elaborate wooden train tracks for our big collection of toy trains, sing train songs, and observe different types and colors of train cars.

In the third week of December, the last week before the Winter Break, we'll be looking at some of our favorite parts of the winter holidays: music, decorations, gingerbread, and gifts! We'll read gingerbread and holiday stories, sing "Jingle Bells" while playing real jingle bell instruments, and work

on using scissors and tape to wrap and decorate. Gift boxes make great learning tools to review sizes, shapes, 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. Whenever possible, I will take the class outside to play, or to walk around and observe the changes in the environment. If it rains, or the temperature gets too cold, 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 Music. We'll make record player art and a musical instrument. On Wednesday, the 2nd, we are going to hear lots of holiday music performed by Woodson High School students at the Tunes for Tots Concert.

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.

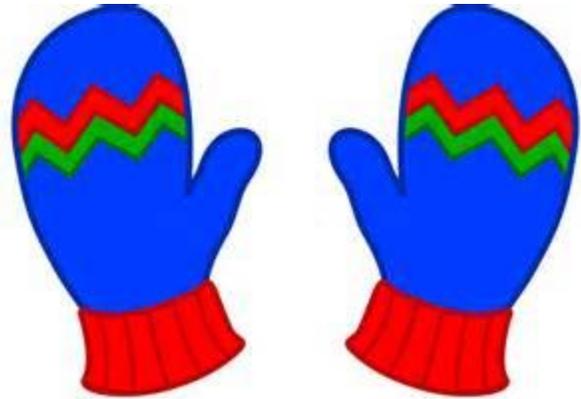
In addition to the handmade gifts, everyone who signs up will be able to visit the Holiday Shop on December 5th and pick out gifts for the people on their lists. Some holiday elves will be on hand to help with those big decisions.

Mark your calendars for the annual PNS holiday party for grown-ups. It's on December 10th at Jane Millward's house. Don't miss out on all the good food and camaraderie!

After all that we will all be ready for the winter break and time spent with our friends and

families. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and I'll see you all in the New Year.

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

Can it be December already? There is something special about the holiday season that just puts a smile on my face...could it be the excitement that I get to share with each of your little ones? Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful creations! It is a terrific time to be a preschooler!!!

December's fun will begin with a week filled with lots of listening. We're going to be experiencing music...loud/soft, fast/slow, etc! What instruments can we name...and what about the different sounds that they make? It will be a very melodic week, I'm sure. Starting the week of 12/7, we will move into the world of hibernating and migrating animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, geese, 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. Our last week of school before our winter break will have us discussing holiday traditions. We'll spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. The sights and the sounds of the season will be obvious to all who visit our class. What a month it will be!

We will attend the Tiny Tots Concert at WTWoodson High School on December 2nd. It is such a great musical (and FUN) experience for the class (right in the middle of our Music Week!) and I look forward to it every year! It really puts you in the holiday mood! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! There will be a Wonderful Wednesday on December 9th (The One-Man-Band).

Remember that the preschool Holiday Shop is Saturday, December 5...and I heard a rumor that Santa will even be making an appearance for photographs, taken by our own talented Jennifer Brooks. Also please make sure that you have the

annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be Thursday, December 10th...and it's at my house! Yea! So look for your invitation and I hope to see you there!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be M(11/30), A(12/7), and reviewing all the letters that we have worked on so far(12/14). 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.

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 30th 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, Dec. 2nd. The Letter of the Week will be M.

The week of December 7th 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 14th 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 5th!

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 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.

ENROLLMENT 2016-17

Schedule of Registration Process

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about next school year. I will be sending out 2016 - 2017 applications in December. Our in-house enrollment will start on Monday, December 14th and will close on Friday, January 8th at 12:30pm. Please see the schedule below and let me know if you have any questions! Jennifer Brooks

December 14, 2015: In-House Enrollment Begins

January 8, 2016: In-House registration deadline (all application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm)

January 9, 2016: Enrollment begins for Alumni and Church members

January 17, 2016: Registration deadline for Alumni and Church members

January 20, 2016: Open House; Enrollment begins for new families

January 29, 2016: Registration deadline for new families (Applications received after January 29th will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis)

Mid February 2016: All families will be notified of their Enrollment status (acceptance or wait list)

PARENT EDUCATION

Save the dates for these upcoming Parent Education talks:

- Monday, February 8th, 6:15-7:15 PM--Maureen Bush will present "Kindergarten Readiness"
- Saturday, March 5th, 10:00-11:30 AM--Dr. Rene Hackney will present "Calm Parenting"

Speech and Language Screening

On January 21st and 22nd, 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. An e-mail with more information and with the necessary forms will be sent on December 4th.

ENRICHMENT

Wonderful Wednesday

What's a one-man band, you ask? Join us **December 9th 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- December 4-5: Help with Holiday Shop. See Fundraising Committee to volunteer.
- December 12, 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 14, 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. Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to Leah, VP Admin. If you have any questions, please contact vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

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 Miss Auten, Miss Susan, Miss Allison, and Miss Ryan 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 everyone who has been helping to keep the playground free of leaves.

Thank you to Heather Green and Peter Streckfus for organizing our school picture days once again this year and to Liz Carroll and Jennifer Wiskochil who volunteered to help with the details and to make our kids smile.

Thank you to all who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up for the VCPC fall forum: Clare, Havasy, Ahern, Erickson, Crawford

Thank you to Kristin Rule for updating out FB cover

photo.

Thank you to Kristen Browning for setting up the informative Parent Ed presentation and the following families who helped with setup, clean up and brought food: Phung-Strollo, Vieira de Carvalho, Crawford, McAllister, Paradise and Millward families.

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.



DECEMBER 2015

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
		1 Tuition Due	2	3	4	5 Holiday Shop 9:00am- 12:00pm
6 <i>First Day of Hanukkah</i>	7 <i>National Cotton Candy Day</i>	8	9	10 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	11	12 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am- 11:30am
13	14 Board Meeting 7:30pm	15	16	17 <i>National Maple Syrup Day</i>	18	19
20	21 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Solstice</i>	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL <i>National Eggnog Day</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 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		<i>School resumes Monday January 4th</i>

Save the Date: PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

10am - 12pm

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors!