

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

# THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

## *A Letter from Natalie...*

Welcome 2016! Happy New Year to all and welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday.



## Mark your Calendar

Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>  
School Resumes

Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>  
Board Meeting  
7:30pm

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

Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>  
Open House 10am-12pm  
School in session

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send submissions to  
[newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com)  
by January  
20<sup>th</sup> for February's issue.



This start of the year is a very busy time for us at PNS. We jump back into school on **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** and enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. 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 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jennifer Brooks, VP of Enrollment or Leah Fogarty, VP Administration.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 18** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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 co-directors were announced. Thank you to Elizabeth Boland 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!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2016!

Take care,

*Natalie*

# 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 -- not the kind of winter we've been having so far this year, in which one wears flip-flops and goes out for a picnic, but the more traditional kind! We will read and learn about ice and how it melts, changes in the weather, how animals behave in the winter, 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.

Please remember that when we do have some real winter weather, 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.

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 Art. We'll be both artists and scientists this week, as we mix colors, notice shapes, and examine works of art together.

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 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 2016. 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 6<sup>th</sup>: a visit from the Mad Science guy. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> there is an opportunity to have your child screened by a specialist from Skill Builders. The screening will cover speech/language and/or OT areas. This is a convenient way to get information if you have concerns about your child's competencies in these areas. If you have questions, please let me know or you can contact Kristen Browning, our Parent Ed. coordinator.

Two important events occur in January, so mark your calendars. I will set aside time on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This will give us a few uninterrupted moments to talk about your students, how they are progressing and goals for the rest of the year. Look for sign-up sheets on the check-in table. Then on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>, 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



So...long walks in warm sunshine, flip flops, shorts, bike rides...Happy New Year? What happened to snow, heavy jackets, boots, and snowmen? Oh, well...every year is different...and 2016 is certainly starting out in a unique way! I just can't believe it's January already! I hope your winter break was spent enjoying memorable times with family and friends...and that your children are now ready for the second half of our preschool year. I know I am! My plan book is full of exciting adventures and experiences... so let's get going! In any normal year, it would be cold outside and we would be experiencing some wintery fun! As I write this, that doesn't look promising, but a girl can still dream. (Yes, I am one of the weird ones who LOVES cold and snow!) Our winter theme will provide us with a basis for several science explorations of liquid/solid and hot/cold. (This group loves experiments...they are fascinated with things that "change.") Each child will have the opportunity to experience what makes this season so unique... and fun!

Then we are off to talk about winter animals. Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls are just a few of the creatures who might make appearances during our circle time this week. And watch out for that glittery artwork! During the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. Yes, we will even don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinos and gravel in our sensory table to the rolling of "dinosaur eggs" to create beautiful paintings, the excitement runs high!

There will be a couple of classroom management changes during January. The sign-in board and symbols have been retired for this year. There will be a new system of "attendance taking" for the children each morning. As they enter the classroom, there will be a "Question of the Day" for each child to answer. They will find their name on the chart board and respond to the question on the chart by "voting" with their name. This activity serves two purposes...each student must recognize his/her name to "vote" and then each child must make an individual decision about a specific question. (This is just another step in the progression we started in September...moving their symbol, moving their symbol with their name, and then moving their name to sign-in each morning.) I will also be phasing in more free choice during small motor time first thing each morning. The kids will be able to choose the activity that they want to play with (right from my cabinet!) instead of me making the choice for them. They

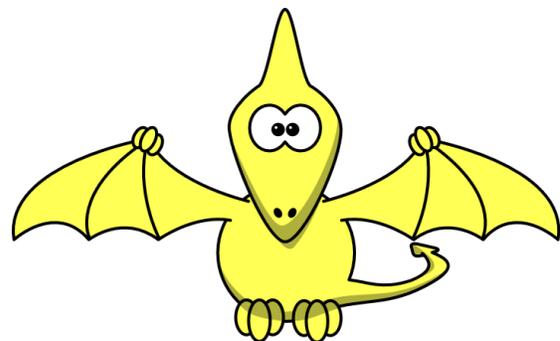
will take the toy to the table or floor to play...and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. It is one more way for this group to become more independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids have become at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of them! Children can become 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/herself when leaving home. Practice zipping that winter jacket...it's a very age appropriate skill to conquer. Also allow your child to walk into school carrying own their backpack and snackbox...I promise to make a fuss at how independent they are becoming! They love being "big kids!"

FYI: Conferences will take place on January 13th-14th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for about fifteen minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, I will make a Sign-Up Genius...and will pass the link onto to you, so that you can make your choice of conference times. Also please remember that we WILL continue to go outside each day that the weather permits. That beautiful playground is fun - even when it is cold outside! So don't forget to send in those hats and mittens (that have been labeled!) every Providence day. The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters R(1/4), W(1/11), and D(1/25). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their pre-reading skills are really improving. And each of them is writing their whole name now...I've seen so much growth!!!

WOW...what a month! If you have any questions or concerns concerning your child or my program, please don't hesitate to call me at home. You know by now how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is and how his/her skills are developing. 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 11, 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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. **Even though Fairfax County Schools have the day off, PNS will have classes on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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



**PNS Open House**

**Wednesday, January  
20th 10am - 12pm**

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

## 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

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Few things get me as excited as science. I fully admit to being a total geek. I wear math joke T-shirts, get regular emails from [thinkgeek.com](http://thinkgeek.com), and buy my kids pretty much anything Wacky Lab comes up with. So I saved our Mad Science presentation for a treat on our first week back from break. Our little ones will get to observe science so impressive and amazing it may seem like magic January 6th at 11:30 in The Big Room. We will also have Enrichment on January 27th at 11:30, it is proving to be a very difficult date to book. I will send out a PNS wide email when I hear back from one of the places I have contacted about our school. CDO, 2s, and siblings are welcome with a supervising parent at both presentations.

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 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 11 at 7:30 p.m. (counts as one hour)
- Volunteer at the PNS Open House on Wednesday, January 20, 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](mailto: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 Leah Fogarty at [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com).

## ENROLLMENT

***Just a reminder that 2016-2017 applications are due Friday, January 8th!***

***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)

## FUNDRAISING

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our fundraisers so far this school year. We raised \$393 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.

Thank you for your support!  
Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

## PARENT EDUCATION

Skill Builders will be conducting screenings for speech and language (performed by speech pathologists) and for sensory-motor/visual-motor skills (performed by occupational therapists) at PNS on **Thursday, January 21st and on Friday, January 22nd**. The screenings include time with each child, as well as information from the child's parents and teachers. The speech and language screening is \$15 per child. The sensory-motor/visual-motor screening is \$15, if your child is also receiving the speech and language screening, or \$20, if performed on its own. If you are interested in one or both of the screenings, complete and return the necessary paperwork by Wednesday, **January 13th**. If you did not receive the screening forms, please contact Kristen Browning.

On **Monday, February 8th**, 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 in the Big Room. 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. Please join us for valuable information regarding your rising kindergartener, light refreshments, and one Parent Education hour.

**Save the Date: Saturday, March 5th**, 10:00-11:30 AM--Dr. Rene Hackney will present "Calm Parenting"

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee: Liz Claeys, Carisa Pineda and the Millward and Robinson families for all of their work leading the Barnes and Noble book fair. Thank you to Miss Susan, Miss Ryan, Ms. Auten, 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: Cochairs Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda, plus the Millward and Robinson families. Also thanks to Social Committee Chair Stephanie Jensen, plus the McAllister 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, and clean-up for Holiday Shop: Havasy, Shadid, Morber, Heim, Levy, Erickson, Crawford, Ramstad, Vieira de Carvalho, Streckfus-Green, Clare, Casteel, Parker, Kamath, Mack, Chitnis, Gillotte, Browning and Phung-Strollo families.

A huge thanks to John Millward for being Santa at Holiday Shop.

Another very big thank you to Jennifer Brooks for the awesome family and Santa pictures.

Thanks to Lesya Cely for coordinating the VCPC Fall Forum and to all who donated refreshments or helped with set-up and clean-up: Clare, Havasy, Ahern, Erickson and Crawford families

Thanks to Jennifer Mack for subbing for Wednesday lunch bunch

Thank you to Bryna Erickson 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: Jennifer Wiskochill, Lori Thomas, Elizabeth Boland, Marisa Chartier and Emily Sherron 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, Stephanie Jensen, Jennifer Mack, and Jane Millward for serving on the tuition committee.

Thank you to Michelle Lewis and Elizabeth Boland 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: Devin Blythe, Parag Chitnis, Randy McCauley, John Chase, Zeina Frayha, Jon Levy, Hien Phan, Beth Ann Clare, Melissa Ahern, Stephanie Jensen, and Charles Havasy.

A special thank you to our aides: Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Kelly and Miss Cindy 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com)

# JANUARY 2016

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