

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
9019 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE
FAIRFAX, VA 20031
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

October 3rd thru 12th

Brunch for Parents

9:30am-10:30am (see calendar for your child's specific class date).

This is not mandatory but attendance counts for a 1/2 adult education hour.

Friday October 7th

FCPS Holiday

No School

Monday October, 10th

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

PNS Board Meeting 7:30pm

Saturday October 15th

Cleaning and Maintenance Day

8:30am-11:30am

Wednesday October 19th

PACT Conference

No School

October 27th & 28th

Halloween Parades 9:30am

(see calendar for your child's specific class date)

Thursday November 3rd

Picture Day for 2s & 3/4s

Friday Novemeber 4th

Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to

newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com by October 20th for November's issue.

We have gotten off to a great 2016-2017 school year at PNS! Thank you to our wonderful teachers, aides, and PNS families. Hopefully by now, your little one is settling in and loving preschool.

October is filled with lots of fun things at PNS. Your children will enjoy plenty of stories, games, songs and crafts to celebrate fall. For the parents, we have our class brunches the week of October 3rd-6th and Wednesday, October 12. Please see the school calendar for dates and look for emails from your child's teacher and class rep with details. The brunches are a fun, casual way to get to know other parents in your class, learn about your children's class as well as to earn 30 minutes of parent education credit.

PNS is closed on Friday October 7th and Monday, October 10th for a FCPS holiday and Columbus Day. Our monthly board meeting will still be held on October 10th and all are invited to attend. The agenda will be out soon. PNS is closed on Wednesday, October 19th as well. Our teachers will be at a conference and our fundraising committee is working on a fun play date. Be on the lookout for more information.

Our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year will be held on Saturday, October 15th and we can certainly use some extra help for this one. There will be lots of leaves to be raked from the playground, and it's a great time to rid the school of any lingering germs as we head into cold & flu season.

To end this busy month, every child will have a chance to put on a costume and wave to their friends and family during our annual Halloween parades. More details will be sent as Halloween approaches. In the meantime, if you are planning your child's costume, please keep our young preschool audience in mind. Nothing too scary for the little ones!

Once again, a huge thank you to all of you who have given your time to make our school run smoothly and successfully and please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Happy Fall!



Jennifer

CDO & 2's

After a busy first few weeks of getting familiar and comfortable with new people and new routines, my young friends are finding that they now know what to expect when they come to preschool. They know that Ms. Auten leads our “train” from place to place, that it’s time to clean up the toys when we hear the clean-up bell, and where we always go after we come in from the playground. So what’s next?

In the first week of October, we’ll be talking about our Families and Pets. We’ll sing about families, play with dollhouses, read about different kinds of pets, and talk about the people and animals that live at home with us. It’s always a thrill for students to bring in a photo of a special family member to show the whole class, so please send in any family or pet photos that your child would like to share this week.

The second theme of October is bound to be a big hit: Land Transportation! I have many favorite books about cars, trucks, buses and trains to share. We’ll sing “The Wheels on the Bus,” move to train-themed music, and of course have all kinds of toy vehicles out to play with.

Then we’ll turn our attention to some highlights of the Fall season, starting with changes in the weather and falling leaves. We’ll sing leafy songs and create leafy art... we’ll also be going outside to explore and make our own observations, so please be sure your child is dressed for the weather!

In the last week of October we’ll have fun with the pumpkins and costumes of Halloween. We’ll read about pumpkins and spend some time examining real pumpkins, inside and out. Some Halloween traditions can be a little scary for my young friends – but not at preschool! We will avoid masks and scary costumes, and focus on friendly faces and costumes. Each class will have a parade to show off our costumes for parents.

I look forward to seeing parents at the class brunches on October 3th (for CDO) and October 4th (for the 2s), and to all of the fun activities ahead in October!

Warmly,

Ms. Auten



It's only October and we've already learned a lot. We know our new friends' names, where our cubbies are, how to check in each morning, that pea gravel should stay on the ground, our circle time spots stay where we find them, there are seven days in each week, our friends have nice manners and so much more!

To make our days even more exciting, we started doing our Daily Jobs last week. Each morning we look for a job picture attached to the check-in symbols. Some days we have a job, sometimes we have the day off. The jobs rotate through the class. It's very exciting to see which job we get.

Ask about it at pick-up time!

Here are some important dates to put on your calendars this month. On Wednesday, the 12th, we grownups get to spend an hour together chatting and brunching. This is an easy parent education hour, so please try to attend. There will be no class on Wednesday, the 19th when the teaching staff attends the PACT (Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers) conference. The following Friday, the 21st, is our first field trip and we're going to Burke Nursery. We'll take a big wagon ride, climb and slide and roll in the play area and visit the "pumpkin patch" on our way out. Then comes one of our favorite things: Our own Halloween costume show. Make sure to have your cameras ready as we show off our clever Halloween outfits first thing Friday morning, the 28th. I'll send out more information about this exciting event later.

As if all of that wasn't enough, we also have our monthly themes to concentrate on. The first week we'll talk about Fire Safety. We'll focus on one of the community helpers we discussed the previous week – the firefighters. Then it's all about Fall Leaves and Pumpkins. We'll hunt for them, read about them, put them in our art and maybe even

carve our own jack o' lantern. Finally, after we have heard many times who's going to be what for Halloween, it's almost here! Superheroes, animals and princesses will inhabit the school in anticipation of the big night.

I hope everyone is having as much fun at school as I am. We're off to a wonderful start and I'm looking forward to some great adventures with this class.

Miss Susan



There are so many things that I love about autumn...the colors of the falling leaves, the bite of the crisp autumn breeze, the sound of the numerous Canadian geese flying south...and more! Here at PNS, we'll do lots of discussing, experimenting and playing with autumn "stuff"...and these seasonal finds will inspire many language, math, science, and music activities in our class room.

The month starts off with a week devoted to Fire Safety. There will be several science experiments dealing with "fire" and a practice session of "stop, drop, and roll." October 11th will begin a week filled with lots of fun learning about our 5 senses...our table activities will certainly be touchy and smelly and filled with good sights. Autumn leaves will be our focus beginning the 17th. And I'm betting you can count on us producing some very colorful artwork during this week!!

Our month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween, and we'll work up to the big day by spending some time learning about pumpkins and spiders. **Our parade this year will be on Thursday, October 27th.** Please send your child to school in his/her costume on that day. We will be parading with the 2s' class, so that everyone at PNS that day can admire all of the costumes (And remember no masks or really scary outfits...thanks!). After the parade (which you are cordially invited to attend), the kids will change from their costumes and we'll return to our "normal" day. (If anyone would like to volunteer to provide a special treat on that day (10/27), please let me know...otherwise I will come up with something special for that day. It's too "BIG" to let it go by unnoticed! ☺)

Per your overwhelming support, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to the Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch. The exact date will follow as soon as Emily (Evelyn's mom) has it all firmed up. I look forward to this trip every year! We'll take a hayride, play in the straw mazes, swing on the rope swings, and drink apple cider at snack time. It's a wonderful day to be a kid...big or little! Plan on coming with us – and staying out there for the whole day with your child, if you can! Siblings are

welcome! There is more than enough to do for the day...I wish I could stay, but I need to get back for Lunch Bunch duty. Hope lots of you can join us!!! October also signals the start of my "Star of the Day" program. I will send home a calendar at the beginning of the month which assigns each child "their" special day...it's their time to shine. The Star of the Day will be my special helper...from line leader to calendar person to "Show 'n Teller"...it is "their" day. The night before your child is to be the Star of the Day, I will put the decorated "Show 'n Tell Can" on top of their cubbie. When you arrive in the morning of your child's "Star" day, please place the "chosen" item in the can. I would really like the item to relate to the weekly theme if at all possible. After playing in the Big Room right before dismissal, we always gather on the blue stripe rug for story time. This is also the time when we will have Show 'n Tell time. As the year progresses, I have hopes of tweaking this process a little more, so that we can work on having good descriptions of the item before the unveiling and then asking appropriate questions about the item.

The Monday Gang (the 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month also. We'll take a look at one letter at a time. The lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences developmentally appropriate for your four year old. The letter will be listed on your calendars along with the weekly themes.

So we're off and running and having a great time! We had such a smooth beginning to the year that September flew by. October is bound to be even more fun! Also please remember that our class brunch is Thursday, October 6th at 9:30...come for information, socialization, and adult education credit! Win, win, win!

Here's to a month that's packed with colorful experiences for everyone!!!

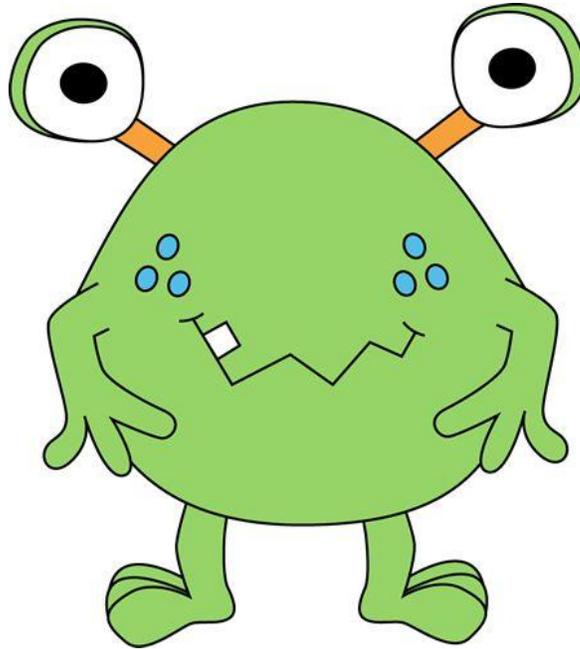
Jane

Wow, we have been so busy for the first month of school! Your children have been learning new routines, new jobs and their new friends' names. Water pitchers, Chair Stacker, Light Keeper, Time Tracker, Crowns of Kindness, tactile table and art projects have all be very popular activities these first few weeks. This class also LOVES books and are a rapt audience whenever I read.

In the coming month we will add some new components to our school routines- Star of the Day and Letter of the Week.

A letter will have come home in your child's backpack on Friday, September 30 about the Star of the Day program. Letters of the Week activities will be included in the Coming Attractions email sent on Sunday evenings. We will introduce letters and early literacy skills in fun and engaging ways, including yoga letters, mystery box items and silly songs.

The week of October 3 we will be discussing **Fire Safety** in the context of **Our Senses** (see, hear and feel will take the spotlight first). We'll share our prior knowledge, explore our likes and dislikes, participate in science experiments and put our information into graphs. Our first Letter of the Week will be Ff. Next come **Apples and Pumpkins** as we finish up **Our Senses** with smell and taste. We'll discuss how these plants and



fruits change throughout the seasons of the year. We'll be trying some apple and pumpkin foods as well as creating with them in art projects. We'll have an Apple Day where each child explores the many aspects of their own personal apple! The Letter of the Week will be Pp. The week of October 17 we will be exploring **In the Woods** the leaves and trees of autumn as well as the animals that live there. Nature walks, tree hugging and outside observations in our journals will be featured. The Letter of the Week will be Ll. Finally, the week of October 24th is all about **Halloween**. Our Halloween parade will be on

October 28th at 9:30am in the Big Room. The children will make their own Halloween treats to eat for snack that day and we will write a class song about our Halloween costumes. The Letter of the Week will be Hh.

Important upcoming dates to remember: **October 5th** Fours Class Brunch, **October 7th & 19th** No School, **October 28th** **Halloween** Parade.

Thanks for continuing to arrive on time, packing healthy snacks and water cups for the children each

day and emptying their backpacks every afternoon. All of this supports a great daily routine and has gotten us off to a wonderful start to the year! Thank you!

Thank you!

Ms. Ryan

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. Contact treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com if you have any questions regarding tuition.

LUNCH BUNCH

It is important to get teacher approval before planning to drop your child in for lunch bunch. Lunch Bunch is FULL on Wednesday, but we do have space on other days. If you are dropping in, check with the lunch bunch teacher or aide for the day to be sure there is space. Payment is due the day of drop-in. Please contact Leah Fogerty treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com if you are interested in monthly enrollment.

HALLOWEEN AT PNS

Probably the most exciting event at PNS this month is our annual Halloween "parade". Students and teachers alike will dress up to show off their costumes to family and friends. The school will be full of our kids' favorite animals, story book characters, princesses, and superheroes. All family members are welcome. Don't forget your camera!

As you and your child are deciding on a costume, we ask that you keep our youngest students in mind. Masks or mummy wraps are great for trick or treating but can be quite scary for little ones who don't understand it is one of their friends underneath. We encourage you and your children to be creative and inventive with their costumes, but please also be considerate of our preschool audience.

PARENT EDUCATION

Please join us for our first Parent Education talk of the school year on **Tuesday, October 11th** from 9:45-10:45 AM in room 208. Carol Muleta from the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) of Kensington, Maryland will present Raising "I Can" Kids. A child's

"I Can Quotient" is Betty Lou Bettner and Amy Lew's term for a more useful measure than the traditional IQ. It includes the qualities that predict a child's ability to thrive in life. Learn strategies to increase your child's sense of feeling connected, capable, competent and courageous. A question/answer period will follow her presentation. Come to hear an informative talk, enjoy light refreshments, and earn one Parent Education hour. Younger siblings are welcome to attend.

Contact Jennifer Mack

parenteducation@providencenurseryschool.com if you have any questions about this event.

Thanks!

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. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- We need a volunteer on **Wednesday, October 5th**, to cover lunch bunch (from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.).
- We also need volunteers to sub for teachers and co-oping parents for one hour during the Parent Branches (**October 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12**) from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.
- Attend the Board Meeting on **Monday, October 12th** at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Let Stephanie Jensen know (or RSVP via the sign-up genius) if you are attending the October Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, October 15th** from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All families are required to attend one Clean-Up Day per child enrolled. You will receive volunteer hours if you help out at an additional Clean-Up Day
- Looking ahead to November, we will need parent volunteers to assist with our Picture Days on Thursday, **November 3 and Friday, November 4**.

Contact Stephanie Jensen

vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these opportunities.

ENRICHMENT

This month we are excited to welcome back Wildlife Ambassadors at 11:30am **October 26th** in the Big Room. We will meet our backyard neighbors and learn about their natural history as well as ways humans can help and not hurt native wildlife. Kids will learn about survival skills of area wildlife, the impact of humans on our wild neighbors and the importance each of these animals has to our ecosystem. There will be live critters for our little ones to meet as well. Parents, 2s, and CDO are invited to join in the fun.

FUNDRAISING

Disney on Ice tickets will go on sale on Monday, October 3rd. The tickets are for the 12:30 show on **Sunday, October 23rd**, at the EagleBank Arena.

Tickets are \$25 apiece and we have a VERY limited number of them. Please e-mail Liz Claeys (starting on the 3rd) if you are interested. Please purchase only enough for you and your immediate family so everyone has a chance to get them - I will let everyone know if we have any extras after a week of sales. Every dollar of the sale price goes directly to PNS! These tickets would normally be \$35 with the processing fee, so they have been discounted for our families.

Mark your calendars for Barnes and Noble Day on **November 19th**. There will be more information to follow at the end of October.

Please fill out Holiday Shop forms (in your Back to School Night folder) and return with cash or check. Forms can be put in either of the black mailboxes or the "fundraising" mailbox in the Music Room. We need time to restock our inventory of gift items. A sign-up for volunteers will go out in early November.

We are working on a couple of other fundraiser ideas for the fall. E-mail Liz or Carisa with any questions or suggestions!

fundraising@providencenurseryschool.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the November Newsletter please submit it by October 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 Jennifer Mack for doing a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions.

Thank you to Meghan & Jamie Test, Hien Phan & Con Dinh for coordinating treats for Back to School Night and Co-op Training and to all of the families who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up: Chanda McCarthy, Liz Ramstad, Greg & Cori Parker, Emily Sherron, Sarah Millward, Jenny Otto, Sara Levy, Alexis Jenkins, Rebecca McCormick, Jennifer Mack, Majo Phung-Strollo, Meg Krug, Julie Liljegren, John Chase, Elizabeth Carroll, Stephanie Kamath, Gailo Bodenhamer, Jennifer Maiwurm, Heather Streckfus-Green, and Whitney Brown. Thank you also to Meghan Test for taking on the Social Committee Chair role.

Thank you to Heather Streckfus-Green for putting together the class placemats, setting up the Shutterfly sites, and organizing our school picture days.

Thank you to Maja Phung-Strollo for arranging our enrichment activities for the year, starting with the fire department visit in September.

Thank you to Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda for organizing our fundraisers for the first half of the year: apparel sales, Disney ticket sales, Barnes and Noble, and Holiday Shop. We are off to a great start!

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped with clearing out and putting away furniture in the classrooms so that the floors could be cleaned and waxed! Peter Streckfus-Green, Zeina Saad, Julie Liljegren, Heather Streckfus-Green, Amanda Zissou, Amy Schroeder, Elizabeth Carroll, Jon and Gailo Bodenhamer, and John Chase.

OCTOBER 2016

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						1 Tuition Due
<i>Note: Wednesdays in October, Soccer Sessions from 1:45pm-2:15pm</i>						
2	3 <i>Brunch CDO 9:30am-10:30am</i>	4 <i>Brunch 2s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	5 <i>Brunch 4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	6 <i>Brunch 3/4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	7 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday	8
9	10 NO SCHOOL  Columbus Day Board Meeting 7:30pm	11	12 <i>Brunch 3s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	13	14 <i>National Dessert Day</i>	15 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
16	17	18 <i>No Beard Day</i>	19 NO SCHOOL PACT Conference	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 <i>World Pasta Day</i>	26	27 <i>Halloween Parade 2s & 3/4s 9:30am</i>	28 <i>Halloween Parade CDO, 3s, & 4s 9:30am</i>	29