

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

October 2nd thru 11th

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.

Monday October, 9th

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

PNS Board Meeting 7:30pm

Saturday October 14^h

Cleaning and Maintenance Day

8:30am-11:30am

Wednesday October 18th

PACT Conference

No School

October 26th & 27th

Halloween Parades 9:30am

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

Thursday November 2nd

Picture Day for 2s & 3/4s

Friday Novemeber 3rd

Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

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



We have gotten off to a great 2017-2018 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 2nd-5th and Wednesday, October 11. Please see the school calendar for dates and look for Bloomz messages 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 Monday, October 9th for Columbus Day. Our monthly board meeting will still be held on October 9th and all are invited to attend. The agenda will be out soon. PNS is closed on Wednesday, October 18th as well while our teachers are at a conference.

Our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year will be held on Saturday, October 14th. 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. Please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Happy Fall!

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

After a busy first few weeks, my young friends in CDO and the Twos are starting to feel comfortable with the routine and to remember what comes next at each step in our day. They know what to do when the clean-up bell rings, how to look for a circle to sit on at Circle Time, and when to follow Ms. Auten on our walking “train” from place to place. So what’s next?

The first week of October will be an active one in the Twos and CDO classes, as we move and dance while learning about Body Parts. We’ll learn the song “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes,” and play with doctor dress-ups and tools. In the second week of October, we’ll check out some neat photo-based books and fuzzy puppets as we learn about Pets.

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, create some seasonal art, and read about some of the highlights of Fall. We’ll also be going outside to explore and make our own observations, so please be sure your child is dressed for the weather, and that all those sweaters and jackets are labeled with your child’s name!

The week of October 23rd, we’ll prepare for Halloween by reading about costumes, singing Halloween songs, and examining real pumpkins. 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.

Finally, as October comes to a close, we’ll start a theme that is always a Twos and CDO favorite: Land Transportation! I have many favorite books about cars, trucks, buses and trains to share, and a big collection of interesting vehicle toys and puzzles. We’ll sing about trains and other vehicles, and pretend to be drivers and engineers.

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

Warmly,

Ms. Auten



Wow, we have been so busy for the first month of school! Your children have been learning new routines, new rules, and some of their new friends' names. Playdough, tactile table, Bartholomew the Bear, trucks on the playground and art projects have all be very popular activities these first few weeks. This class also LOVES books and listening to others read to them. On your co-oping day, you will probably be doing a lot of reading too!

In the coming month we will add some new components to our school routines- our classroom jobs will start and with that we'll add the weather component of our Morning Circle. In addition, as the children become more familiar with the check-in routine, Miss Emmy will start leading the class in our yoga activities during our morning warm-ups while the co-oping parent helps the children check-in and figure out their job for the day.

The week of October 2 we will be discussing our **Body Parts** as well as the importance of **Hand Washing**. We'll be doing lots of yoga and movement activities as well as sharing what our body parts can do. Next comes **Pets**, the animal members of our families. We'll be talking about how we care for animals, the pets we wish we had (if we don't have any) and some classification concepts as we compare how different pets feel. The week of October 16 we will be exploring **Fall Weather** with a focus on the leaves and trees of autumn. Nature walks, tree hugging and outside observations will be featured. The week leading up to Halloween, we'll explore a "spookier" side of nature, with **Night Creatures**. We'll talk about the animals who stay awake at night as well as the darkness of nighttime. We'll even have a Pajama Day at school! Our Halloween parade will be on Friday, October 27th at 9:30am in the Big Room. The children will make their own Halloween treats to eat for snack that day. More details to come in a class update. The final week of October we'll

explore **Apples and Pumpkins**. 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.

Important upcoming dates to remember: **October 11th** Threes Class Brunch, **October 9th & 18th** No School, **October 28th** Halloween Parade and **November 3rd** Picture Day.

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!

Ms. Ryan



October...thoughts of football games, pumpkins and spider webs, cool mornings, earlier darkness, geese honking as they fly south, long walks through the woods with my dogs...and the sounds of happy children tromping through tons of falling leaves on the playground at PNS. Yep...it's autumn!

October will find us exploring several important topics...fire safety, our five senses, autumn leaves, and best of all, Halloween! (Don't forget that there is no school on Columbus Day, October 9th in observation of Columbus Day, nor on Wednesday, the 18th due to the PNS' staff attendance at the Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers' fall conference.)

During fire safety week (10/2), we will practice stop, drop, and role and perform several experiments relating to heat. Starting 10/10, we will test our senses by smelling, and touching, and tasting all sorts of interesting "stuff." Autumn leaves will be the focus during the week of 10/16. You can count on that week being filled with lots of color and texture as we explore the outdoors.

Our month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween!. **Our parade this year will be on Thursday, October 26th.** 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 can admire all of the costumes (Please remember no masks or really scary outfits...thanks!). After the parade (which you are cordially invited and encouraged 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 (10/26), please let me know...otherwise I will come up with something special for that day. (A study of food rounds out our month, starting on October 30th. All I can say is, "Yum!")

Per your overwhelming support, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to the Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch on Tuesday, October 24th. 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 longer with your child, if you can! Siblings are welcome to come along for the fun! There is more than enough to do for the day out there...I wish I could stay, but I need to get back for Lunch Bunch duty. I do 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 every 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, or some seasonal item, if at all possible. After playing in the Big Room right before dismissal, we always gather on the blue stripe rug for storytime. 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 asking appropriate who, what, where, when, and why 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. Our lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences which are developmentally appropriate for your four year old. The letter will be listed on your calendars along with the weekly themes...F (10/2), L (10/16), H (10/23), and P (10/30).

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 5th at 9:30...come for information, socialization, and adult education credit! Win, win, win!

Happy Autumn!!! Jane Millward

Dear Parents,

How is it October already? September has just flown by!

The 4's class has had a lot of fun this past month. We have learned about our friends and about ourselves, including our five senses and our feelings. We have learned a lot of new information about apples including the tastes of different types of apples and about making apple prints. The girls and boys have become used to their new jobs helping around the classroom and show-n-tell is off to a great start!

October at PNS is going to be great fun! We will start off the month learning about fire safety and we will learn about fire trucks and firefighters. In the second week of October, we will learn about fall leaves. We will take a nature walk around school, looking for fallen leaves on the playground and will use them to make a leaf collage and a leaf sun catcher. In the third week, we will study about pumpkins and we will find out what is inside of them and even paint them, then we will see how tall they are by measuring them using counting unifix cubes. We will begin the Letter of the Week program. This program will help your children learn letters and letter sounds through fun activities such as play dough mats, tracing, and recognition. The letters for October will be Ff, Ll, Pp, and Hh.

In the last full week of October, we will have Halloween fun and have our very own Halloween Parade! The 4's will have their Halloween parade on Friday, October 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Big Room. I can't wait to see what every child is going to be! We hope you can join us and be sure to take lots of pictures! This is a big event and we would like to have a special themed Halloween treat. If you would like to volunteer to provide a special treat for the class, please let me know.

Lori (Landon's mom) is busy helping plan our very first field trip to Cox Farms on Wednesday October 11. Please look for more information coming soon. I know the class will have lots of fun seeing the farm animals, going through the mazes, the giant slides, and going on the hayride!

October dates to remember:

- October 4: Brunch for 4's parents from 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- October 9: School closed for Holiday
- October 11: Cox Farm Field Trip
- October 18: School closed for the PACT conference
- October 27: Halloween Parade

I can't wait to see what adventures we are going to have in October!

Shannon Keller



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.

ENROLLMENT

We still have a few openings for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact Kristie McCauley (membership@providencenurseryschool.com) for more information.

LUNCH BUNCH

It is important to get teacher approval before planning to drop your child in for lunch bunch. Lunch Bunch is FULL on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 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. You can charge lunch bunch drop-ins to your school account and pay monthly. Please contact Jonathan Liljegren (Treasurer) regarding billing questions and Kristie McCauley (VP of Enrollment) 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

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00 PM - "How to Raise Responsible, Respectful Children Without Yelling or Nagging" @ Mantua Elementary School library (all parents are welcome; no rsvp required)

Monday, October 23rd, 9:30 - 10:30 AM - Dr. Rene Hackney will discuss "How to Handle Picky Eaters and Managing Family Mealtimes" @ PNS classroom

Saturday, October 28, 8:30 AM - 12:45 PM - "ADHD and Screentime: Turning Problems into Solutions" hosted by Commonwealth Academy. Registration required at Eventbrite (early bird special is \$25, after that it's \$35).

*You will receive 2 hours for attending this event.

Looking ahead: Mark your calendar for Francine Ronis's session on "How to Talk so Kids Will Listen" on November 13th at 6:30 - 7:30 PM (prior to the board meeting), and Rene Hackney will present again on Monday, March 12th before the board meeting (topic TBD...any suggestions?).

Did you know that Fairfax County offers a variety of Parent Education Resources for free? Visit <https://www.fcps.edu/node/28019> to learn about FREE workshops, trainings, and conferences on a wide variety of topics throughout the school year. They will also send you any previous trainings/workshops from the past year. Easy way to earn your hours!

Speech and Occupational Therapy Screenings will be held on November 30 and December 1, 2017.

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 1 volunteer on Wednesday, October 4th, to cover lunch bunch (from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.).
- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, October 9th at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Let Stephanie Jensen know (or RSVP via the sign-up on Bloomz) if you are attending the October Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 14th 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.

Contact Stephanie Jensen via Bloomz 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 Under the Sea at 11:30am **October 25th** in the Big Room. This is a water animal show, and there will be various creatures of the sea present, such as snails, starfish, crabs, etc. Parents, 2s, and CDO are invited to join in the fun.

FUNDRAISING

FALL RESTAURANT NIGHT: At Elevation Burger in Fair City Mall in Fairfax between 5-8pm on October 18th. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to PNS. Please join us!

Other upcoming events are Barnes and Noble Day (**November 18th**) and Holiday Shop (**December 9th**). Please fill out and return all Holiday Shop forms by **October 13th** with cash or check or a note to make payment via your Jovial account. Forms can be put in either of the black mailboxes or the "fundraising" mailbox in the Music Room.

More details to follow in the coming months. We can always use volunteers for both of these fun

events. Please feel free to reach out to either of the fundraising co-chairs, Carisa Pineda or Sarah Millward.

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,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Jenny Otto for doing a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions and for helping everyone get a head-start on parent ed hours. Thank you to our social committee for coordinating treats for Back to School Night and Co-op Training. Thank you to all of the families who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up. Thank you to Melissa Ahern for a great September newsletter. Thank you to the Jessup Family for taking good care of the fish over the summer. Thank you to everyone who helped at the first clean-up and maintenance day. A special thanks to Charles Havasy for coordinating the maintenance committee and PJ Pitera for coordinating the clean-up and providing refreshments. Thank you to our class reps for helping all our new families feel welcome: Meg Krug, Jennifer Brooks, Dawn Zhao, Liz Carroll and Emily Gillotte. A thank you to Stephanie Kamath, Amy Schroeder, Carisa Pineda, Heather Streckfus-Green and Melissa Ahern for helping with the library inventory. A big thank to Erin Meyer for accepting the VCPC Representative position! Finally, a huge thank you to our executive board members and teachers who put in many hours this summer in preparation for the new school year.

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 Carisa Pineda and John and Sarah Millward for organizing our fundraisers for the first half of the year: apparel sales, Barnes and Noble, and Holiday Shop. We are off to a great start!

OCTOBER 2017

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