

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Thursday December 7th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

Saturday December 9th

Holiday Shop
10:00am-1:00pm

Monday December 11th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

December 18th thru January 1st

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday January 2nd

School Resumes

Wednesday January 17th

PNS Open House
10am-12pm

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to melissasahern@gmail.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 9th. 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 7th 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. An Punchbowl Invite has been sent out but if you have any questions, please feel free to send me a Bloomz message or email message at president@providencenurseryschool.org. Mark your calendar now!

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,

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

It's getting cold outside... but not in the Twos' and CDO classes, where December means more singing and dancing, jingling bells, and laughing all the way!

As the temperatures drop, we'll continue to go outside whenever we can, working on those self-help skills to pull on coats, hats, and mittens. We'll practice "The Magic Coat Trick" together, and encourage everyone to zip and unzip their own coats.

This brings us to our theme for the week of December 4th: Clothing. We'll sing songs about what we're wearing, identify the kinds of clothes people wear in different seasons, and practice sorting and matching by color, texture, and pattern.

Then, during the week of December 11th, we'll celebrate some of the delights of the winter holiday season: the sounds of bells, the colors of

decorations and wrappings, and of course the joy of giving and sharing with others! We'll read and retell the story of The Gingerbread Man. In Music, we will sing "Jingle Bells" while playing real bells.

Gift boxes make great learning tools; we will use them to identify square shapes and notice different sizes and colors. Albert, our stuffed lion mascot, will use them to practice his polite words for giving and receiving gifts. In the Big Room, we will work on using scissors and other art supplies to wrap and decorate.

Our Winter Break begins in the third week of December this year. Whether your plans for the holiday include travel, festivities, or relaxing at home, I wish you all a wonderful 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 a Bloomz alert 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

December is here! This is a very busy month both at the Bianchetti house as well as at PNS. This month we'll continue exploring with our Senses as well as getting ready for the Holiday season.

The week of December 4th, **Gingerbread** smells will fill the air. We'll read a variety of Gingerbread stories and notice the similarities and differences between them. We'll definitely be baking and taste testing this week as we continue studying our Five Senses with Taste and Smell! We'll also explore Tasting a Rainbow this week and put all of our senses together to create a class mural of Sense Art! Additionally, we'll be making some surprise gifts for the upcoming Holidays.

The week of December 11th will focus on the many **Holidays** celebrated in our homes. We'll be talking about family traditions and the idea of "giving." I'll be asking you to talk to your children about a family holiday tradition in your home and help them complete a "homework" activity to share with their friends at school. We'll also be finishing up those surprise gifts. **Please let me know if you anticipate being absent this week, so we can be sure to get gifts home for the Winter Break.**

In the spirit of giving, each year PNS hosts the Littlest Tree on which the children can put donations of mittens, socks, hats, underwear in children sizes for kids in need. The tree is usually displayed in the Big Room, so we will probably (definitely) notice it as we play. More information can be found in the Newsletter and on Bloomz.

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 finding their coats as well as putting on hats and gloves. **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 I-o-n-g break when you return on January 3rd!

Ms. Ryan



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!!!

We only have two weeks to get into a wintry, holiday mood...not that it will take much to stir up some excitement with this bunch! Starting the week of 12/4, we will move into the world of hibernating, migrating, and adapting animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, geese, etc. will all be topics during our circletimes. I bet we'll even "Go on a Bear Hunt" once or twice during the week! Our last week of school before 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 wonderful (yet quick) month it will be!

Remember that the preschool Holiday Shop is Saturday, December 9th...and I heard a rumor that Santa will even be making an appearance for photographs. Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be Thursday, December 7th...and it's at my house! Yea! So look for your invitation and I hope to see you there! Our ornament exchange is always one of the holiday season's highlights!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be A(12/4), and the letter B plus reviewing all the letters that we have worked on so far (12/11). 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



This time of year is filled with lots of fun, and anticipation of the Holiday Season. I'm excited to share this wonderful time of the year with my PNS family!

Although December is a short month at school, it's going to be packed with fun and learning! We will continue filling our Kindness Jar, and prepare for the upcoming break.

The week of December 5 will be all about Music. In addition to our regular class with Miss Allison, we will play some musical games and try our hands at making an instrument. The letter of the week is "I".

The week of December 12 will be devoted to Holiday Traditions around the World. We'll talk about special things we do at this time of year and work on gifts for some special people in our lives. We'll review all of the letters we have learned thus far (F, L, P, H, T, S, M, B, and I).

Important dates to remember: **Thursday & Friday, Nov 30th/Dec 1st** Speech and OT screenings. **Thursday Dec 7th** annual PNS Holiday Party at Mrs. Millward's. **Saturday, Dec 9th** PNS annual Holiday Shop.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break filled with your own family traditions! I look forward to seeing you all again in 2018!

Mrs Wallace



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

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 Bloomz. 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 2018-19

Schedule of Registration Process

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the next school year. I'm going to send out 2018-2019 applications in December. Our in-house enrollment starts on Monday, December 11th and closes on Friday, January 5th at 12:30pm. Please see the schedule below and let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you, Kristie McCauley

December 11, 2017: In-House Enrollment Begins

January 5, 2018: In-House registration deadline (all application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm)

January 8, 2018: Enrollment begins for Alumni and Church members

January 16, 2018: Registration deadline for Alumni and Church members

January 17, 2018: Open House; Enrollment begins for new families

January 26, 2018: Registration deadline for new families (Applications received after January 26th are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis)

PARENT EDUCATION

Additional parent ed opportunities will be scheduled after the break.

Check the spreadsheet in Bloomz to make sure you are up-to-date on parent ed responsibilities.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment activities are currently being planned, so keep an eye on your email for further details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- December 8-9: Help with Holiday Shop. See Bloomz sign-up to volunteer.

-December 11, 7:30pm: Board Meeting. Earn 1 hour of volunteer credit

Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year. Each co-oping family 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. Your current hour's status is available via the spreadsheet link on Bloomz (under the media tab in the Providence Nursery School group). 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 all our teachers 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.

UPCOMING EVENT: Holiday Shop on Saturday December 9th between 10:00AM - 01:00PM at PNS. Volunteer slots are still available for set-up the night before (December 8th between 7-9PM) and for Holiday Shop Helpers the day of. Sign up on Bloomz.

We will plan to do a winter restaurant night to raise money for the school once again. Time and date are TBD. Stay tuned.

Sarah Millward 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,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Zeina Frayha and Tarek Saad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills and making sure our first-aid kits are well-stocked. Thank you to our field trip coordinators –Julie Agar (3s), Emily Sherron (3/4s), and Lori Thomas (4s) for setting up the first of the school's field trips. Thank you to all who attended our October Cleaning and Maintenance day and to Charles Havasy for leading the maintenance tasks. Thank you to PJ Pitera for leading the cleaning effort. Thank you to all those who made sure there were plenty of smiles during picture days and to Theresa Gunlicks for leading the effort!

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.

Thank you to the teachers, aides and parents who assisted with our Thanksgiving Feast!



DECEMBER 2017

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1 Tuition Due	2
3	4	5	6	7 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	8	9 Holiday Shop 10:00am-1:00pm
10	11 Board Meeting 7:30pm	12 <i>1st night of Hannukah</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	19 NO SCHOOL	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL
24 NO SCHOOL	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 New Year's Eve						

School Resumes Tuesday
January 2nd

Save the Date: PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

10am - 12pm

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors!