

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...

Happy spring to you all!



Mark your Calendar

April 3rd
NO SCHOOL
PACT Conference

Monday April 9th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

Monday April 16th
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday

April 17th thru 23th
Parent Teacher Conferences
(sign up for times with your teacher)

Saturday April 14th
Cleaning & Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday April 23rd
Spring Coffee
7:30pm

April 30th thru May 4th
Teacher Appreciation Week

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



As we head into the last two months of the school year, I'd like to give recognition to the outgoing executive board members who have helped run our school this year. A big thank you to Jonathan Liljegren, Sarah Millward and Carisa Pineda who will be leaving the board this year. Thank you for all of your contributions to the board over the years. Thanks also to Stephanie and Dan Jensen, Kristie McCauley, Elizabeth and Bo Boland and Laura Heim for all they have done this past year and for staying on to serve again. They will be joined by new board members Amy Schroeder, Sara Levy and Emily Gillotte. The 2018-2019 E-board will take over at the April meeting.

The Spring Fundraiser, a playdate and annual Raffle, will be held at school in the Big Room on April 3. Teachers will be at a conference all day but stay tuned for information about the fun plans. This is not a drop off event, so plan to stay and play with your kids.

Our Spring Break is March 26-April 2. The Spring Fundraiser is on April 3 and school resumes on April 4.

The April 9th board meeting will be held at 7:30 in the Big Room and as always, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. As the first meeting with the new board, this is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and bring up any thoughts you have for the coming year.

Another important meeting to start preparations for the upcoming school year is soon. If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on Monday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Taylor Hall (upstairs in the church). This is a required meeting for all new and returning parents. This is not a kid friendly event, so please plan to leave your children at home. An invitation including more details will be sent via email soon.

Also during the month of April, teachers will be holding conferences between April 17 and on April 23 and we have our last cleaning and maintenance day on Saturday, April 14th.

We will have the chance to celebrate our amazing teachers the first week of May during Teacher Appreciation Week. Your class reps will be spearheading this opportunity to show our gratitude.

Finally, as I wrap up my second year as Board President, I'd like to say how grateful I am for having had this opportunity to serve. I am excited to serve again next year! Thank you!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring fundraiser on April 3.

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

It's a new month, and we're back from Spring Break full of energy for building, balancing, and happily hammering away with our Construction theme! There will be construction materials, workbenches, and tools in the classroom. If the weather allows, we can get out the big construction trucks on the playground, too!

What's in the garden? I know my young friends will have lots of ideas to share for Garden week. In the week of April 9th, we'll examine some real seeds that are sprouting up, and roots that are growing down. We can dig in the dirt, do some exploring, and find out what lives in the garden above and below the ground.

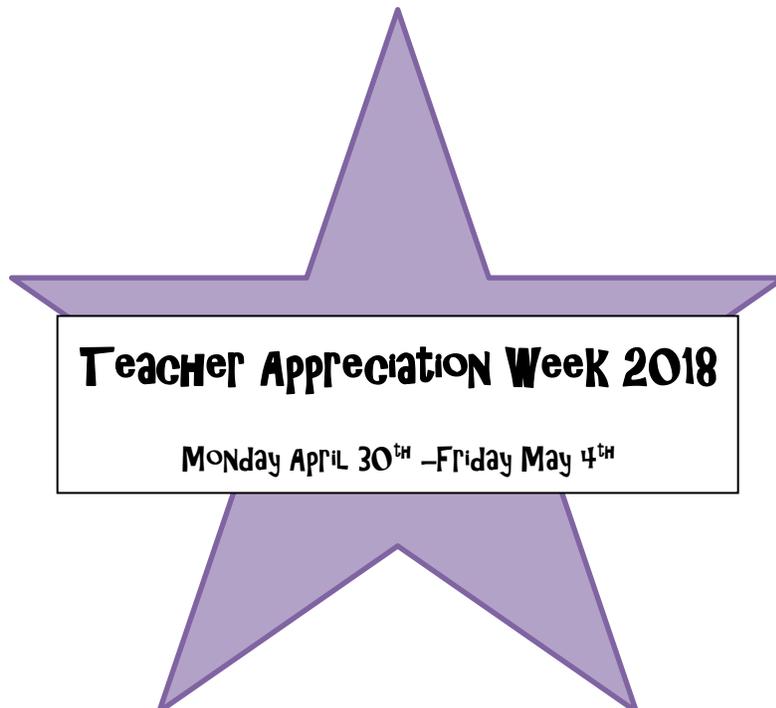
Our theme for the week of April 16th is for all of my avid duck enthusiasts: Pond Animals! The sensory table in the Big Room will be a pond habitat this week, with natural materials, and pond animal toys.

We'll read about life in the pond, sing some pond counting songs, and of course, quack to our hearts' content.

In the final full week of April, we'll be learning about Caterpillars and Butterflies. We'll read and retell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and make beautiful butterfly art. The Big Room will become a Farmers' Market this week, with flowers, fruit stands, and cash registers.

Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held this month; I will meet with Twos parents on Tuesday, April 17th, and with CDO parents on the following Monday, April 23rd. Your children have bloomed and grown this year, and I look forward to talking with you about all of their amazing accomplishments at preschool!

Ms. Auten



It's Spring (late snow notwithstanding) and, hopefully, we will be spending a lot more time outside in the Threes Class. Our class loves the playground and nature walks and we'll even have some chances to do our Morning Meetings outside as well!

First up, the first two days we're back from Spring Break, we'll be talking about **Spring** and **Spring Weather**. We'll create some "rainy day" artwork and explore the colors in the Rainbow, including color mixing activities. We'll have a weather bear to dress for various outdoor situations and we'll practice our patterning skills with some weather symbols. We're going to keep track of our weather all month long, so we can use our counting skills as well.

The week of April 9th we'll be exploring **Under the Ground**. Our focus will be on dirt and soil as well as rocks and worms. We're going to plant some seeds to see in a special "Root-View" container so we can see what happens both above and below the ground. We're going to get messy making some mud "pies" as well as painting with some tactile fingerpaint. Outside, we'll take our magnifying glasses to observe the ground. We're going to examine and sort rocks and talk about the characteristics we prefer, shiny, smooth, large, specific colors? We will also highlight the important job of the mighty worm and how this animal is important to the underground habitat. We'll definitely explore moving our bodies like these helpful creatures.

The third week of April we'll be talking about life **At the Pond**. We're going to highlight frogs, ducks, turtles and fish. We'll pick our favorite pond animal to create using tactile materials for a Pond display in the hallway. We'll talk about how pond animals are the same and different and practice our sorting skills. Look for lots of gross motor activities as we move like different animals and complete a Pond Animal Obstacle Course. We'll even set up a small "pond" outside for catching toy ducks and fish. If we're lucky, we'll have some tadpoles in the Big Room for

observation.

The week of April 23rd, we'll continue in aquatic habitats, this time moving to **Under the Sea**. We'll talk about fish, whales, sea stars and octopi. We'll create underwater scenes using water color paints and ink stamping. We'll sort and pattern with sea shells. We'll sing a silly song about the animals in the ocean. We'll explore mixing sand with water and create wet sand drippings for an unique tactile experience. We'll practice some fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination as we "fish" with magnets and add clothespin "legs" to an octopus. **Our class field trip to Hidden Pond is this week on Friday, April 27th.**

The final week of April we're talking about **Gardens and Insects**. We're going to start getting ready for our Mother's Day Brunch on Friday, May 11th. A lot of our art this week will be a surprise for this special occasion. **Be sure to mark your calendars for spending at least part of the morning with us on May 11th, from 9:30 – 10:30.** We'll be doing a small performance, presenting gifts and serving brunch. Besides our art surprises, we'll also be talking about what seeds need to grow and doing a sequencing activity. We'll have a science activity that allows us to see flowers "drink" water and we'll sort seeds in various ways. The insects who visit the garden are very important and we'll be discussing the lives of butterflies, ladybugs and bumblebees. We'll take a nature walk around the school to look for different colored flowers as well as insects. Hopefully, we'll be able to observe the life cycle of the butterfly in real time in our butterfly habitat in the Big Room.

I am looking forward to our spring conferences on April 18th and 20th. Look for a sign up on Bloomz the first week of April. Other important dates in April include **No School** April 2nd or 16th and our field trip to **Hidden Pond** on April 27th.

Here is hoping for a warm and sunny April!

Ms. Ryan

"The flowers are blooming. The flowers are blooming. The flowers are blooming. I know, I know, it's spring!" I can't get this little song out of my head...so I'll be singing it a lot around the preschool. It sums up my feelings...springtime has finally sprung at Providence! April is going to be a wonderful and busy month for the 3/4s.

Since our month begins on Wednesday, the 4th, I decided that we will continue with our construction vehicle theme to get geared up (!!!) for our rescheduled visit to the VDOT lot on Thursday, the 5th. I have lots of fun activities to do on that Wednesday...so we will go on the bell and construct, construct, construct in our small groups!

Then we will enter into the world of Fairy Tales during the week of 4/9 – 4/12. I am sure that princesses, princes, castles, and dragons will all be making appearances! There will be discussions of the elements that make up a fairy tale and our imaginations will be in overdrive! That is when we will write our own fairy tales in small groups...and then illustrate them, too! A truly magical week!

Next comes the week of April 16th where we will be truly 'digging' deep underground...learning about creatures who live in and under the dirt! What is really going on "down under"...what is crawling under our feet? Let's find out!!! Maybe we'll get lucky and find a worm or two to observe...love that science stuff! ☺

Lastly, on the 23rd, we will begin a unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the little creatures that live in, and around, ponds. The life cycle of a frog will be discussed and acted out. Ribbit! I am hopeful that there will be a field trip to visit Burke Lake on Thursday, April 26th. Emily will update us on details as the date gets closer.

Conferences will be held on Wednesday (4/18) and Thursday (4/19) during school hours. Miss Kelly and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so that there

will be a minimum of disruption for the class. I'll put up the link on Bloomz after Spring Break, so that you can schedule your time to chat with me. I look forward to speaking with you...your kids are all so terrific that I just want to make sure that you know how special they really are! ☺

There is no school on Monday, the 2nd nor Monday, the 16th...both due to the FCPS schedule. There is also no class at PNS on Tuesday, April 3rd, as the entire staff of the preschool will be attending the PACT conference in Maryland all day. Don't forget that there is a playdate at PNS on the 3rd...and our big raffle will take place on that day. (Buy your tickets at the door that day...there are some really GREAT prizes this year!)

Letters for the Monday gang are G (4/9), J (4/23), and Q/U (4/30). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet and we've all had fun doing it!!

Quite a busy month, huh? I can't wait for the fun to begin!

Jane



It's time to get outside and think Spring! This month we'll return to the Great Outdoors as we explore a variety of nature topics. We'll be talking about some of the different ways to classify the animals we encounter in our various habitats- mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, plus some insects for fun! Now, if only the weather will cooperate.

The first week of April we are going **Underground**. Spring is coming and underground things are happening. We are going to get messy this week! We'll be exploring the science of soil and planting a garden in a jar. What makes up the layers of dirt? We are going to go find bugs and worms to watch. We'll talk about the mammals and reptiles that make their homes in the earth. Hopefully the mystery seeds we plant will start to make an appearance by the end of the month. A tasty "mud cake" will make a yummy underground treat. We might even spend an entire morning "playing" underground in our classroom. Our letters this week will be Q and U.

The week of April 9th is a time for the **Birds**. Continuing our studies of animal characteristics, we will figure out the ways that birds are both similar to and different from the worms, reptiles and mammals that lived underground. Art projects will include bird feeders and feathered ducks. Hopefully the bird feeders will attract some feathered friends we can observe from our classroom window. In one of my favorite science activities of the year, we will discover connections between the shapes of birds' beaks and how/what different birds eat. We are going to do a taste test of a variety of foods when we "eat" like a bird. Hopefully, we'll get the opportunity to get outside and make some bird observations and record them in our journals. Our Hidden Oaks Field Trip about the "Creatures of the Forest Habitat" should fit nicely into our discussion of animal characteristics. The Letter of the Week will be O.

The third week of April we'll spend our time discovering the ecosystems of the **Pond**. We'll use a Venn diagram to compare fish and frogs and we'll categorize and classify the animals that live around and in the pond, especially focusing on the characteristics of the Amphibians. We'll continue our cooperative bulletin

board project for the month which will keep our little artists busy. Sequencing skills will be used as we discuss the life cycle of a frog. Look for table work to include a pond drawn by each child and a headband made about the life of a frog. The Letters of the Week will be A!

The week of April 23rd is **Insects and Life Cycles in the Garden**. We will be learning about some new animal characteristics, those of insects. What makes an animal an insect and how are they different from the other animals we've been discussing all month? We'll be comparing life cycles both of the seeds we planted at the beginning of the month and some insects, namely butterflies and ladybugs. Life cycles are a great way to practice our sequencing skills. We'll add our final projects to our class bulletin board and we will also begin working on some Mother's Day surprises. The Letter of the Week will be C/K, a makeup from our Spring Snow!

With five weeks in April, we'll wrap up our animal study with a week of the **Wild World of Animals**. Taking all of the animal information we've learned this month, we'll be comparing similarities and differences as well as categorizing animals in different ways. Look for lots of animal inspired art, science experiments and nature observations from our surroundings here at PNS. We'll also be talking about some more exotic animal habitats, like deserts, rainforests and coral reefs. We'll complete our projects for the upcoming Mother's Day brunch as well. Finally, we'll be wrapping up the Letters of the Week with X, Y & Z!

Important dates in April: No school on Tuesday, April 3. Field Trip to Hidden Oaks on Friday, April 13th. Parent Teacher Conferences on April 24th and 26th. A Sign Up on Bloomz will come out sometime during the second week of April for conference times.

I cannot believe how quickly the school year is passing! I am looking forward to some mild weather and a lot of outdoor fun with my friends at school as spring blooms!

Ms. Ryan

ENROLLMENT

We currently have open spots for 4s and older 2s in CDO for the 2018-2019 school year. Please spread the word to your friends, family, neighbors, and Mom groups that may be looking for a preschool for the upcoming school year.

They can email Kristie McCauley at membership@providencenurseryschool.org or visit the Enrollment Page on www.providencenurseryschool.com for more information.

SUMMER CAMP

Join us for a summer camp experience for children ages 3-5 with songs, games, arts and crafts, and learning through play! Camp will be held May 29-June 8. Space is still available in the 4/5s class (rising kindergarteners.)

Visit www.providencenurseryschool.com for registration information.

VCPC

The Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council will be accepting nominations for VCPC member schools' parents whose commitment over the past year has been superior. Perhaps you can think of someone whose contribution has been substantial and nominate him or her for this award. Nomination forms will be available on the sign-in tables or by messaging Erin Meyer on Bloomz.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to everyone who has already finished their hours and an extra big thanks to those that continue to volunteer even after your hours are met—this is a huge help! There is still plenty of time and opportunities to finish up your volunteer requirement for this school year. Please let us know if you are concerned about getting all your hours in or if you need an updated total. If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below, please check the Signups tab on Bloomz. If you have questions about your volunteer time, please contact Stephanie Jensen on Bloomz or at stephmjensen@gmail.com

- Cover for lunch bunch on Wednesday, April 11th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Attend the last Clean-Up Day of the year, which is Saturday, April 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you've completed your mandatory day(s), this is a great way to earn those last few volunteer hours.
- Attend the board meeting on Monday, April 9th at 7:30 p.m.
- Help set up, clean up, or provide refreshments for Spring Coffee on April 23rd
- Help represent PNS at the Mantua Spring Fling on April 21st

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee will be hosting a Very Hungry Caterpillar Playdate and raffle at PNS on April 3rd from 10 am to noon (no school). There is no charge for children 1 and under; the price for all other kids is \$5 per child. Yes, siblings are welcome!

Raffle tickets will still be on sale the day of the event! You do not need to be present at the drawing on Tuesday in order to win. Tickets are \$1 each, or 12 for \$10.

REMINDER

If you have not completed your maintenance day requirement please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday April 14th, our last cleaning and maintenance day. If you prefer to buy-out, please contact Stephanie Jensen via Bloomz.

INDOOR SANDBOX REPLACEMENT

After more than a quarter century of faithful service (predating Ms. Millward!), we have decided that the sand leaks on the indoor sandbox are unrepairable and we will be replacing it. Pictures below are from the construction of the replacement by HopFrogWoodworks on www.Etsy.com; we expect it to be completed prior to the April 14 Cleaning and Maintenance Day.

Charles K. Havasy
Maintenance Chair



EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the May Newsletter please submit it by April 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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our PNS Family is growing!

Congratulations to the Dinh Family who welcomed new baby Tan in the month of March.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our **PNS teachers** for another fabulous VIP Day! Our students and their Very Important People shared a fun and educational morning.

Thank you to Karen Wallace, Phyllis Bruyette, Laura Braceland, Allison Hagner and Ryan Bianchetti for staying late recently to clean the big room.

Thank you to our social committee members for providing refreshments and coordinating volunteers for tonight's meeting. Thank you to all who donated refreshments or volunteered to help with set-up and clean-up. Thank you to our teachers for a fantastic VIP day and for their work on spring brunches. Thank you to Jenny Otto, Jessica Bonds, Allison Hagner, and Deema Slim for covering the parent brunches. Also, thank you to Allison Hagner, Kate Stein, Jennifer Maiwurm, Terry Trepel, and Deema Slim for working together to take care of our fish. Thank you to our teachers for helping our kids create beautiful projects for the art show and the nice labels describing each class. Thank you to those who helped with February's Clean-Up and Maintenance Day and as always, thank you to our Clean-Up Coordinator, Maintenance Chair, and Maintenance Committee families for leading the effort.

Thank you to Charles Havasy, Stephen McCormick and Steven Longstreet for rebuilding the playhouse after the wind storm and relocating the items previously stored in the church basement.



APRIL 2018

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1 Tuition Due	2 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday	3 NO SCHOOL PACT Conference	4	5	6	7
8	9 Board Meeting 7:30pm	10	11	12	13	14 Final Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am- 11:30am
15	16 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday	17 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 2s & 4s</i>	18 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3s & 3/4s</i>	19 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3/4s</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences CDO</i> Spring Coffee 7:30pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					