

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 20031
www.providencenurseryschool.com

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

Monday December 14th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

December 21st thru January 1st

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Monday January 4th

School Resumes

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



Did anyone watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade: no cheering crowds, minimal performances, and those eerie "forced-smile" face masks? While the essence of the parade was there, it didn't fill me with the excitement it usually does on Thanksgiving morning. I think I'm just tired of trying to make the usual traditions fit into "the new normal." Maybe it's okay to accept that some traditions this year just aren't going to happen, and to seek unique, positive ways to re-experience the holidays. Similarly, it has been difficult to find a way to keep many of our PNS traditions, which inherently call for a gathering and sharing of experiences. Virtual alternatives were discussed, but ultimately it was decided that cancellation of the Holiday Shop and Holiday Party would be the most reasonable and kindest thing to do for ourselves.

We are still collecting goods to donate to the Providence Presbyterian Church's pantry and Littlest Pantry. Items needed include: ready-to-eat foods, toiletries, and cleaning supplies (all items must be shelf-stable, sealed, and able to withstand high temperatures). You can leave your donation with your teacher at drop off or pick up. Instead of "The Littlest Tree," consider donating clothing (or other items) sent from Amazon directly to a charity, such as the Shelter House or Lamb Center, both of which have wishlists on their websites.

In a "regular" year, we would start enrollment for next year this month! With the many changes of 2020-2021, the board has decided to delay the start of enrollment for 2021-2022 until February. More details will be coming out closer to that time.

We will begin our new Spring program when we return from winter break on January 4th. Classes will be indoor/outdoor weather permitting and masks will be required as tolerated for all students at all times (teachers will continue to be continuously masked). Be sure to speak with your teacher if you have specific questions or concerns.

Finally, PNS recognizes that, for your own sanity, you may be traveling and visiting with family over the break. In order to keep our school community protected, we ask that you assess your/your child's risk of exposure and consider self-quarantining out of school for the CDC recommended amount of time following your travels, especially if it was to a higher risk area or with others that did not quarantine prior to your visit. As a cooperative preschool, we will not be asking for or assessing your travel plans or implementing any requirements, but ask that you assess you and your child's own risks in order to help us stay open and safe for all, especially as we move inside more.

I wish you holidays full of happy moments, new experiences, and maybe a few salvageable traditions sprinkled in.

Thank you,
Amanda

CDO & 2's

The first theme for December in the Twos/CDO class will have us looking, listening, and exploring in our outdoor classroom: the **Five Senses!** We'll use our senses to make outdoor observations, play a guessing game, and create sensory art. We'll read a non-fiction book about the ways children use their five senses in real life, and explore some puzzles, books, and toys that remind us about using our senses.

Our sense of hearing will take us right into the next theme for the week of December 7th, **Music**. We'll try out a variety of instruments, listen to the natural sounds around us, and practice some important music concepts: fast and slow beats, and loud and quiet sounds.

Meanwhile, our sense of touch may also be telling us it's *cold* outside! We have been very fortunate in the weather department this fall, but on colder days please be sure to dress your child in layers: a shirt layered with a sweater or sweatshirt and then a

jacket or coat on top will trap more heat to keep your child warm. Mittens/gloves and hats/hoods are essential, too. Please label each glove and mitten, hat, and face mask with your child's name or initials, to help us get any misplaced items back to their owners.

We'll wrap up the week of December 14th by celebrating **Holiday Traditions**, talking about some of the interesting things we see at home and in the community during the holiday season, and playing bells along to a Twos' perennial favorite, "Jingle Bells."

Our Winter Break will be the two weeks starting on December 21st. Although there are sure to be some adjustments to plans in this unusual year, Laura and I wish all of you a healthy, joyful, peaceful celebration with your families!

Ms. Auten

Inclement Weather Dismissal Policy

Providence Nursery School plans to follow Fairfax County Public Schools' policies regarding school openings and delays- assuming they continue to make that call. If FCPS closes due to inclement weather, PNS will be closed as well. The President will send an email alert to PNSAll notifying the school of any closures or delays as soon as the information becomes available. You can also listen to the local news and check www.fcps.edu.

Not fully knowing how FCPS will be making their weather related calls, as well as the fact that our classes are primarily outdoors for now, please also look for emails from your class google group [either from the president or your teachers] regarding changes in protocol or class cancellations. If there are additional caregivers or grandparents that need notification regarding any non-FCPS linked schedule changes (such as someone doing drop off), please let the president and your teacher know ASAP.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays

PNS Class Time	FCPS 2 hr. delay	FCPS 2 hr. early closing
9:30–12:30	11:30–1:30	No change
9:30–11:00	11:30–1:00	No change
Lunch Bunch 12:30–1:30	1:30–2:30	No change

When we return from Thanksgiving for the first preschool week in December, we'll be learning about the **Five Senses** with books, games, and experiments. We'll create multi-sensory art, and take a nature walk to practice using our senses outdoors. The following week, we'll make and listen to **Music**, trying out a variety of instruments and even making some instruments of our own! We will listen to the natural sounds around us, perform experiments with sounds, and practice and compare fast and slow beats, and loud and quiet sounds.

Monday video classes on the 7th and 14th will extend those Five Senses and Music themes, with games, practice with patterns, and more movement and breathing exercises. We'll wrap up in the week of December 14th by celebrating **Holiday Traditions**, talking about some of the interesting things we see at home and in the community during the holiday season, and playing jingle bells!

We have been very fortunate this fall with the weather, but if some cold weather does catch up with us on a Wednesday or Friday, please be sure to dress your child in layered clothing, with gloves or mittens and a hat or hood. If they arrive feeling too warm for all of that, feel free to include extra outerwear in your child's backpack for later in the morning. For our part, Laura and I will keep us moving on cold days with as much jumping, dancing, running, and pedaling as we can pack into a busy morning! Weather-permitting, our Bike Days this month will be Wednesday, December 2nd and Wednesday, December 16th.

Our last day of class before the two-week winter break will be Friday, December 18th. Thank you for everything you have done this fall to roll with the changes, safeguard all our families' health, and hold our little community together! Although there are sure to be some adjustments to your plans in this unusual year, Laura and I wish you all a healthy, joyful, peaceful celebration with your families!

Ms. Auten



3/4's & 4's

Can it be December already? Yes, the holiday season is upon us, and there is much to celebrate in the 3/4s and 4s class. We can't wait to share this special time of year with you and your children. Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday excitement, and many wonderful creations coming your way!

The first week of December will be all about music. We may not be able to sing as much or play as many instruments as we would like to this year, but there will still be lots of musical fun and games for the kids.

Starting the week of December 7, we will move into the world of hibernating, migrating, and adapting animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, geese, etc. will all be topics during our circle times. We might even find ourselves going on a bear hunt one day this week. That is certainly a class favorite.

Holidays and celebrations will be our theme for our last week of the school year. We look forward to hearing all about the special traditions that take place with your families. We will spend time talking about giving and sharing and all the joys of the season. And of course, your kids will be hard at work on some special surprises that they will be very proud to give.

The Monday gang will continue their journey through the alphabet with letters B and S. This group is really enjoying their letter "work." They especially look forward to seeing who gets to pick the trick picture card. We try our best to throw them off with something that does not start with our weekly letter, but they caught onto us pretty early on.

This brings us to our winter break. We've truly enjoyed spending these last few months with your kids, and we're very much looking forward to the New Year. Thank you all for being a part of our cooperative preschool and making this school year a success.

Happy Holidays!

- Jane and Kelly



Winter Weather Reminders

- Remember that your child will be outside and potentially in the shade for long periods of time. Gloves and hats are a must. Layers are wonderful. Rain gear makes for happy, puddle stomping children. Dressing for the weather has never been more important!
- Don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes to the weather- nothing like only having a change of shorts on a 40 degree day!
- Please make sure you label all hats, coats, scarves and mittens that your children bring to school. And make sure your children know their own clothing. This is the only way to make it sure they make it home!

Volunteer Opportunities

As the year starts to settle out, if you do not already have a family job, you will be hearing from us soon. With smaller enrollment this year, any time or task that you can do to help out is greatly appreciated. We are still tracking volunteer hours, though we recognize that without events, hours are more limited. There are several volunteer opportunities available now; for those interested please contact Amanda (president@providencenurseryschool.org). You can always attend a board meeting for 1 hour of volunteer credit, or attend an additional maintenance day for 3 hours (next one is January 16th).

Enrollment

We have openings for the 2020-2021 school year for 3s and 4s. Please spread the word to your friends, family, Mom groups, and play groups of our wonderful, safe, and open program! Email enrollment@providencenurseryschool.org for more information.

Tuition reminder

As a reminder, tuition is due on the first of the month. After the 10th of the month, a \$25 late fee will be applied.

Maintenance Minute

Thanks to the seven parents who volunteered to help at the November 7 Cleaning and Maintenance Day, and especially to Con Dinh for bringing his power washer and John Millward for bringing his leaf blowers (yes, he has two!).



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Panera fundraiser. Our Minted fundraiser will continue on through the end of December. Our online book fair will start this week! Please look out for an email with more details. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me!

Emily Gillotte
Fundraising Co-chair, Mom to Max (3s)
emedee@hotmail.com

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!

Once again, a huge thank you to our teachers and aides for making this year happen safely, smoothly, and with such happiness. And for taking on additional responsibilities that are usually covered by parent volunteers due to our need for social distancing. Thank you to all who attended our November Cleaning and Maintenance day. Thanks to Emily Gillotte for organizing our fall fundraisers. Thank you to Sarah Millward, Meredyth Havasy, and Emily Gillotte for taking on additional responsibilities for enrollment. Thank you to our class reps Laura Heim, Sarah Millward and Amanda Morgan for helping with parent "happy hours" [brunches], upcoming holiday items, and for being so responsive to various board items. Thank you to Erin Meyer for her constant monitoring and submission for grants that keep us going this year. And thank you to Melissa Ahern for being a consistent and reliable newsletter editor (among many other things!).



December 2020

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
		1 Tuition Due	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 1 st day of Hanukkah 	11	12
13	14 Board Meeting 7:30pm	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Day 	26
27	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL New Year's Eve		

School Resumes Monday
January 4th