

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

November 2nd & 3rd

FCPS Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Saturday November 7th
Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday November 9th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

Tuesday November 24th
Thanksgiving Luncheon 3/4s & 4s

November 25th, 26th, & 27th
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL

November TBD
2s/CDO
Parent Teacher Conferences

November TBD
3s Parent Teacher Conferences

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



What a wonderful preschool we have- our kids are joyful, our teachers and aides are happy, and we, parents, are thrilled! Picking up my dirty, cheery, and tired 3 year old is so much more meaningful this year when we have fought so hard to make it happen. We couldn't ask for a better program- even in spite of 2020. As we enter into the Thanksgiving season (how is that possible?), I'm grateful for our teachers and aides that show up each day with smiles and dances to entertain and educate our little ones.

Some dates to note in November: PNS is closed November 2nd & 3rd (vote if you haven't already!), and Nov 25th-27th for Thanksgiving. We have our last Cleaning and Maintenance Day of this calendar year on Nov 7th. The CDO/2s and 3s classes will have their parent teacher conferences this month; the 3/4s and 4s class will have theirs in January as usual. The 3/4s and 4s will be having a different kind of Thanksgiving Luncheon this year on Nov 24th. Looking ahead, sadly the Holiday Shop will be cancelled this year, as we could not find a way to do it safely that retained the element of joy and surprise.

Our monthly board meeting will be Monday Nov 9th at 7:30 via Zoom. We will be discussing what our spring (January -May) program will look like and value your opinions! If you ever have concerns or ideas, please feel free to reach out to your class rep, teacher, or me.

I continue to closely monitor transmission rates for Fairfax as well as any updated guidelines, and appreciate your continued attention to your and your child's health. Our diligence has led to the success of our first month and a half of preschool! As we enter into allergy and cold season, I wanted to remind you that the teachers will be extra cautious of symptoms. As part of our pre-existing, non-pandemic related health policy: "If a child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more, vomiting, diarrhea, colored discharge from the nose, a rash or unusual skin condition, or *symptoms of a communicable disease* within the last 24 hours, he/she must not be sent to school unless accompanied by a note from his/her physician stating that the child is in good health and there is no contagion." If your child has a condition that you know has similar symptoms to COVID-19 (such as asthma or seasonal allergies), you may provide past paperwork showing those symptoms are related to that diagnosis and avoid missing any school.

As we enter into this strange distanced holiday season, with constant changes to routines that are usually firmly established, varying expectations in parenting, and running out of ways to make virtual playdates fun, I'm sure we are all feeling a sense of weariness and frustration mixed with our holiday spirit. Your kids are probably feeling a similar way. Research has shown the easiest way to build resilience in your children is to share some of your own frustrations and disappointments and what you are doing to help yourself. It's as simple as saying, "You know what, I'm really sad Gramma can't be here this Thanksgiving like always. When I'm missing Gramma, I send her a text and I give you a hug, and I feel a little better." It's also a great way to force yourself into some self-care.

Wishing you a joy-filled and relaxing Thanksgiving,

Amanda

CDO & 2's

Some themes are too much fun for just one week... and we'll be starting November with one of them: **Transportation**. For the first two weeks in November, we'll be talking about land transportation of all kinds, including cars, trucks, buses, trains, bicycles, and anything else on wheels. We'll sing about *The Wheels on the Bus*, and roll toy cars down ramps. In fact, there are so many interesting toys, books, puzzles, songs, and pretend games about vehicles, it'll be a busy couple of weeks!

Then, beginning the week of the 16th, we'll start preparing for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday by talking about **Food**. With our collection of kitchen tools and an endless supply of natural materials, we can whip up any imaginary food we want! We'll also use kitchen tools to make art, and to make music. The week of the 23rd is, of course, **Thanksgiving** week, so on Tuesday we'll talk about saying "thank you," just in time for the holiday itself on Thursday.

In addition to our planned activities, there has been a lot of environmental learning taking place in our "outdoor classroom" this fall. Some of our observations so far have included spiders and spider webs, ants, moss, leaves, sticks, and seed pods. We have incorporated the environment into our plans, and into our art. Even when our lesson goes off in a new direction altogether, the important parts of our preschool class are still there -- the curiosity, imaginative play, language, and friendship!

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for my young friends coming to preschool, our beautiful outdoor space and good weather to enjoy it, and the health of all of our families in this preschool community. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Auten



The Threes and I have been learning together this fall, finding new adventures in our “outdoor classroom!” Our adventures continue this month with our first theme for November,

Transportation. We'll spend two weeks playing and experimenting with wheels and land vehicles of all kinds. Some of my favorite book illustrations belong to the transportation theme, including those in Donald Crews' and Byron Barton's books about trucks, cars, and trains. From our vantage point on the front porch, there will be plenty of real-life examples to see and talk about, too.

Our next theme, **Food**, is also sure to be a hit. Not only does this class enjoy pretending about cooking and serving food, I know from their spontaneous conversations with each other that they *love* to talk about their favorite things to eat. I can't wait to hear the answers to those Questions of the Day! We'll use kitchen tools to make music and art, and measuring tools and food packages to talk about relative sizes.

Talking about food will get us all ready for the following holiday week. The Thanksgiving holiday break begins on Wednesday, November 25th, so our Monday video class will focus on the Thanksgiving themes of being thankful, saying “thank you”... and turkeys!

Last month we took binoculars out on the nature trail, soccer balls up to the field, bikes to the parking lot, and art projects to the picnic area – but we're not done exploring yet! I am looking forward to finding *more* interesting corners of the outdoor grounds for our adventures, and to exploring what the season has to offer in November. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Auten



3/4's & 4s

November (or YESvember as we fondly call it in our class!) is traditionally a month to give thanks. At Providence, we have so much to be thankful for...terrific children, caring parents, fabulous outdoor classrooms, and a whole month to celebrate our blessings! The children are having the BEST of times...exploring our outdoor spaces during our mornings in the picnic grove, taking part in interesting discussion times on the front porch, and running free on the wonderful PNS playground in the beautiful autumn weather that we have been having lately. The kids are becoming such good friends...listening to their conversations is just delightful!

Our weeks in November will be crammed full of fun as we talk about Spiders (10/2)...watch out for the spider webs; Food (11/9)...what is a balanced diet/making healthy choices; Thanksgiving Story (11/16)...the Mayflower story (read as a chapter book), Being thankful and helpful (11/23)...how can we help?; and Music (11/30)...stand by for instrument making! The Monday Gang will be looking at the letters L, T, A, and M during the month.

There will be some sort of class Thanksgiving feast this year...but like everything else, it will have to look a bit different. Stay tuned for more information as time gets closer.

Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in your child's backpack...and to label all those hats and mittens that are being worn these days. Star of the Day is a great success – I think being line leader is the favorite part of the job. Leading the calendar discussion is not far behind though!

There will be no school for us on the 2nd and 3rd (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 25th and 26th (Thanksgiving).

We are having a great time with your kids! And we are both so thankful for Mrs. Wallace and Miss Karen...they make our class complete! Lastly, we want you to know how thankful we are to be able to spend our mornings with your children...PNS is truly a special place to be!

Happy Turkey Day to all!!!

Jane and Kelly



Enrollment

We have openings and are accepting new students in all our classes for the 2020-2021 school year. Please spread the word to your friends, family, Mom groups, and play groups. Also, if you are proud of your preschool, would you be interested in responding to new family inquiries? We are looking for a parent to return new interest phone calls and emails! No in-person requirements, and all can be done at your convenience. Please consider helping to take this one task away from your small and hard working board!

Class Photo Sites

Teachers have been uploading so many fun photos to the class Shutterfly sites! The pictures offer so many wonderful glimpses of day-to-day activities at PNS, which we are missing without co-op! In May, we will order class photo books using those pictures, so if you take any pictures of virtual days or activities, be sure to add them as well. One quick reminder about our Shutterfly photos: these sites are only to be used by PNS parents. For the safety and privacy of our students, the information about our class pages should not be shared with members of your extended families or friends.

Holiday Food Drive

It's time for the annual PNS holiday food drive- finally a tradition that hasn't changed! All donations are to support the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry which supplies food goods to members of our community regardless of religious affiliation. Bring your donations to drop off and our teachers will be sure it gets to the PPC food pantry. The kids love to help with this and learn the importance of giving to those less fortunate. PNS is also looking into caring for the Little Pantry for a few weeks in the winter, which these donations can help support. Stay tuned for more details of specific needs.

Winter Weather Reminders

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Please label all hats, coats, scarves and mittens that your children bring to school. This is the only way to make sure they make it home!
- Emailing the school or class Google groups is the quickest and most effective method we have of distributing information. School delays and cancellations will be announced through the PNSAll Google group. As FCPS is starting in-person classes, we do expect they will make weather-related closure calls; we will follow FCPS's schedule unless they do not make one.
- If you have a caregiver or grandparent dropping off your child, and you would like them to be added to the PNSAll email group in order to receive the weather closure information, email Amanda at president@providencenurseryschool.org with the caregiver's email.

Fundraising

We had a slow start to the year to allow everyone to get settled, but we have some fun, safe events coming up! In November, we will be having a restaurant night at Panera and an online bookfair. We will also hold a fundraiser from now through December with Minted. Emails about these events will be going out soon! As always, we would appreciate it if you would choose PNS as your designated charity through AmazonSmile. They recently started allowing mobile purchases to count for AmazonSmile! If you have any questions about any of these, or any suggestions for the Fundraising Team, please email me at emedee@hotmail.com.

Emily Gillotte
Fundraising Co-Chair

Volunteer Opportunities

As this year continues to unfold, the Board is monitoring the accessibility of volunteer hours. I urge you to consider volunteering for the few opportunities that come up, not because of “required” hours, but rather out of a sense of responsibility- we are a very small membership group this year and these small tasks add up quickly! Email Amanda

(president@providencenurseryschool.org) for details:

- Sign for playground- need someone to find printer, design and hang sign on playground- 1 hour credit
- Attend the board meeting for 1 hour credit
- Small outdoor improvements that can be done during the week
- Clean up and maintenance day- 1 required per enrolled child, 3 hours volunteer after that
- Donate Wipes or Lysol cleaning sprays (check that they are EPA approved here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-ndisinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>) Feel free to post on the Facebook Group page “sightings” of Clorox or Lysol wipes and sprays when seen in the area. They are frequently limited to 1 per customer, so your assistance in maintaining our wipe supply is greatly appreciated by the teachers. Don’t fear, we have other approved cleaning supplies; wipes are just easiest!

Thank You!

Thank you to Ryan Doan for his time and supplies in repairing the roof on our shed. Thank you to Charles Havasy for organizing all our maintenance days and maintenance tasks. Thank you to Emily Gillotte for finding wonderful fundraising opportunities to help keep our school afloat and keep the excitement going! Thank you again to all families for their patience, flexibility and support this year. And a huge thank you to our teachers and aides for their sheer joy and enthusiasm to teach our children!

Editor’s Note

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



November 2020

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1 Tuition Due	2 NO SCHOOL FCPS Student Holiday	3 NO SCHOOL FCPS Student Holiday	4	5	6	7 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
8	9 Board Meeting 7:30pm	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Thanksgiving Luncheon- 3/4s&4s	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving 	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30					