

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

Monday February 8th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

Monday February 15th
NO SCHOOL
President's Day

Monday March 15th
Annual Membership Meeting &
Board Meeting
7:30pm

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



Hello PNS Families,

As our strange year continues to unfold, instead of hoping for snow, I'm hoping for things to warm up so we can get back outside again! Or feet and feet of snow that provides hours and days of entertainment- I just need to get out of the house!

Thank you for your patience in getting family jobs assigned. Everyone should have their job and have started their responsibilities at this time. If you have questions, concerns, or are unable to complete your job, please let me know. Because we parents don't see each other or the school building on a regular basis, if you don't directly tell me or a teacher about an issue, we won't know to help!

Enrollment for 2021-2022 will begin in-house on February 15th, so be on the lookout for more information. We plan, at this point in time, to offer a "regular" year of classes, schedules, and co-oping! Priority enrollment for alumni and PPC families will begin March 1st, and new families on March 8th. We are still looking for volunteers for a possible virtual open house, please contact me if you are interested. As with any year, the number one way new families hear about PNS is through word of mouth. Please spread the word about our wonderful and sturdy school! We are truly prepared for anything 2021 might throw at us to provide a safe and reliable preschool experience.

There are some important dates coming up this month. The slate for next year's officers will be presented via email towards the end of this month, instead of being traditionally presented at the February board meeting, which is on Monday February 8th. PNS will be closed for the President's Day holiday on Monday, February 15th. We will not be holding our annual VIP (Very Important Person) Day this year. Also, please make sure to put Monday, March 15th on your calendar. That is the night of our (virtual) annual membership meeting and attendance is required for all currently enrolled families. We will vote on the officers for the next year. The vote takes just a few minutes, then the monthly board meeting follows; you are welcome to earn a volunteer hour by staying for the board meeting, but your attendance is only required for the first 15 minutes. Everyone should have received an updated printed copy of the calendar, along with the updated Policies and Procedures Addendum (dated 1-11-2021) and Illness Notification Chart in your child's backpack. As always, let me know what questions you have.

Thank you all for making PNS a wonderful place for our kids to fall in love with school!

Amanda

CDO & 2's

Brrr! As we continue through the winter season at preschool, the Twos and CDO class will begin February with a continuation of our **Winter** theme, turning our attention from snow stories to **Animals in Winter**. We'll read and sing about hibernating bears, and use our imaginations to hibernate in our own cozy caves. But we *are* a brave and energetic bunch (and not much for hibernating), so we'll continue to head outdoors each day to enjoy the playground and outdoor toys, too!

Fortunately, February is not just about cold and snow... it's also the month of love! The week of the 8th will be all about preparing for **Valentine's Day**. We'll decorate valentines, and bags to put them in. The Big Room will become a mail room this week, as we try to solve a mystery through our pretend play: how, exactly, does mail get from somewhere far away to your own mailbox? On Thursday, students may bring in valentines from home to deliver to each other's mail bags!

In the fall, we talked about transportation on land, and now we'll happily return to another transportation theme: **Air and Sea Transportation**. At our Circle Times, we'll sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," and count down to blast off into space. We'll perform a science experiment together to see what floats, and what sinks, in water. In the Big Room there will be toy boats and planes to maneuver, and a bigger wooden boat and plane to ride on.

The last week of February will be the start of a two-week theme: **The Farm**. There are just so many things that two-year-olds love about farms. There are the animals and all their funny sounds, the fruits and vegetables that grow in such interesting ways, and the tractors and other fascinating farm equipment. Some of our favorite songs and nursery rhymes are about the farm, too; we'll read and sing and act out some familiar favorites, and maybe learn a few new ones!

From bears in hibernation to driving a tractor on the farm... even on the coldest days, at preschool our imaginations are all warmed up and ready to go! Happy February!

Ms. Auten



At Circle Time last month, the Threes began looking at the calendar and noticing what changed and what stayed the same each day. We counted along as the number of days went up. But, "it's *still* January, and it's *still winter!*" they observed. As we turn the page to a new month, we continue to focus on the winter season, starting the week of February 1st learning about how **Animals in Winter** react to the colder months. Who stays awake for winter, and who hibernates or heads for warmer places?

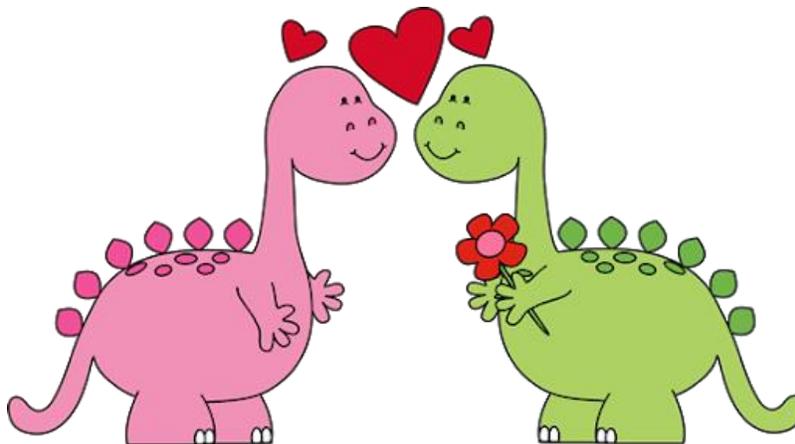
Meanwhile, our intrepid class has been wide awake and outdoors in every kind of weather, riding bikes and playing on the playground, taking long walks, running through the field, playing basketball, and even playing "balloon tennis" with our own homemade rackets! In February we will continue to find new ways to keep moving and stay warm outdoors. Weather permitting, our Bike Days will be on Wednesday the 10th and Wednesday the 24th.

Of course, February also brings us **Valentine's Day**, so during the week of the 8th, we'll read about this holiday of love and friendship, make our own valentines, and bring in valentines from home to deliver to classmates. Looking at all those heart shapes will give us some practice with a new math concept: symmetry. Can we create a symmetrical shape with our art? Check out the mid-month video for more on symmetry.

Our theme for the week of the 15th will be **Air and Sea Transportation**. We will have books to read about some of the many different kinds of boats and ships, and a toy airport with planes for learning and pretending about air travel. Finally, beginning on the 22nd, we'll visit **The Farm**. Our farm toys and animal nursery rhymes are perennial favorites; now we'll learn some interesting new facts about specific farm animals, too!

I can't wait for more indoor and outdoor adventures with my young friends in the Threes!

Ms. Auten



3/4's & 4's

January has come and gone in a flash. The class has taken to our new routines quite nicely, and everyone seems to be enjoying the time inside our lovely school. Our new check in routine allows each child to make their presence at school known and give great thought to our question of the day. It is also a sneaky way we are having them practice writing their names! Our daily pattern is another new component we are able to introduce in January. So far, we haven't been able to stump this group. Now on to new adventures in February!

First comes a very exciting week...and it's all about science! This class seems to adore experiments and learning "why" things happen, and who are we to disappoint them? We will have fun doing all kinds of scientific stuff. We promise to make it as messy and gooey as we can! This will be a week full of making our own predictions and getting comfortable with the idea that those predictions won't always be right. This can be a tough concept for four and five year olds and is something we emphasize all year.

If your child would like to make Valentines for their friends at school, please send them in as soon as possible. We will safely distribute and send them home on Thursday, February 11th. Due to COVID concerns, please send in cards only. We won't be sharing any food or treats this year. Thank you! Then, the following week at school will be all about friendship and feelings as a follow up to Valentines Day.

The week of February 22nd will find us discussing the many workers who help us in our community. There is sure to be talk about what everyone would like to be when they grow up and how they will undoubtedly make the world a better place. I wonder how many doctors, police officers, veterinarians, and bus drivers there will be in this class.

We will wrap up our month by rhyming our why through a variety of Dr. Seuss books and activities. It sure will be COOL to be at SCHOOL this week!

Our Monday 4s group will be working with the letters I, V, and N. We've been noticing this group working together to decode simple three letter words. The cooperative spirit is amazing!

We are still trying to get outside as much as possible. Thanks for all the labels on coats, hats, and mittens. It is also still chilly inside with doors and windows open. The layers are appreciated!

Finally, please remember there is no school on February 15th (President's Day). Cheers to a fabulous February!

- Jane and Kelly



Keep PNS in the Loop

Have you moved? Changed your cell phone number or work phone? Please keep in mind that these small changes may affect the school's ability to reach your family in case of emergency. If you or your spouse -- or anyone listed as an emergency contact -- has new information -- please let PNS know. Contact Stephanie Kibler, VP Forms, via email or at forms@providencenurseryschool.com with updates.

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. You must also attend one Clean-Up Day per enrolled child. Here are some opportunities for you to be a part of the PNS Community and earn volunteer hours:

- Attend the virtual Board Meeting on Monday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. (1 hour credit)
- Attend the last official Clean-Up Day of the year on March 20th. Please check out the Sign-up Genius to volunteer. (3 hours, if you have already completed your required one day per child)
- Be a part of a committee- we have tuition, board member nominating, and hiring committees upcoming!
- Volunteer to help with a virtual open house
- Last Clean-Up Day of the year March 28th.

Contact Amanda Longstreet (via president@providencenurseryschool.org) if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these.

Fundraising

We will have a few more restaurant/takeout nights this spring, but until then, you can support PNS by linking us to your Amazon Smile account, or by shopping our online bookstore, at www.bookwormcentral.com. Just click on "Book Fairs" and the Customer icon to type in our school's name.

Thank you for all of your support this year!

Emily Gillotte, Fundraising Chair
Emedee@hotmail.com

Enrollment

February 15, 2021: In-house registration begins

March 1, 2021: Beginning of enrollment for alumni and Church members

March 8, 2021: Beginning of enrollment for new families

Thank You!

Thank you to those that donated to The Little Pantry. Thank you to Sarah Millward, Meredyth Havasy, and Emily Gillotte for their continued help with enrollment. Thank you to those families and our teachers and aides, who have stepped up to help keep the preschool running smoothly this year!

Editor's Note

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

February 2021

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
	1 Tuition Due	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board Meeting 7:30pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15 NO SCHOOL President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						