

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...

Welcome 2018! Happy New Year to all and welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday.



Mark your Calendar

Tuesday January 2nd
 School Resumes

Monday January 8th
 Board Meeting
 7:30pm

January 9th thru 12th
 Parent Teacher Conferences
 3s, 3/4s, & 4s

Monday January 15th
 NO SCHOOL
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 17th
 Open House 10am-12pm
 School in session

This start of the year is a very busy time for us at PNS. We jump back into school on **Tuesday, January 2** and enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **Friday January 5th, 2018**. If you are enrolling your children in PNS next year it is essential that you do not miss this deadline as we close in-house registration and begin accepting applications from alumni and church families.

Our annual Open House will be held on **Wednesday, January 17th**. School is in session during this time so it is a great chance for prospective families to see PNS in action. The open house is also a great volunteer opportunity. Please consider volunteering your time to give tours, answer questions or watch children for other volunteers. It is a very busy morning and we need a lot of help. To volunteer contact Kristie McCauley, VP of Enrollment or Stephanie Jensen, VP Admin.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 15** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and closed on **Friday, January 26 and Monday, January 29**.

Teacher conferences are coming up this month as well for the 3s, 3/4s and 4s classes. This is a great chance to learn more about your kids. Look for sign-up directions from your teachers.

As of the December board meeting, we are still looking for a Summer Camp Director. If you're interested, please let a board member know. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment flyers will be out next month!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2018!

Take care,

Jennifer



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

CDO & 2's

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a full and festive holiday break. I have missed all of my young friends, and have all kinds of fun plans as we start out in the New Year.

For the first two weeks in January, we'll be talking about Winter. First, we will read and use our own senses to learn about ice and how it melts, and make icy and snowy art. We'll pretend and sing about all the fun things we can do in the snow, such as sledding and building snowmen. Then, in the second week, we'll use songs and puppets to talk about what bears and other animals do in the winter.

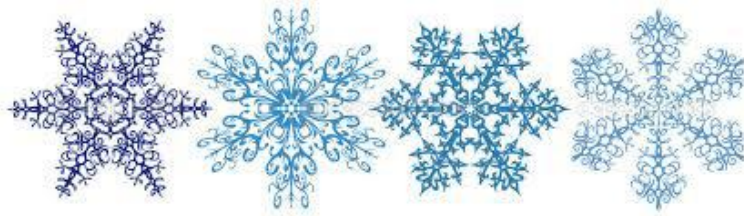
We'll continue to play or walk outside whenever possible, so be sure to send along those warm coats, hats and mittens labeled with your child's name on cold days. However, if it's too cold to go out, we'll head to the gym to play with hula hoops, balls, a parachute, or our soft cotton snowball collection!

The third week of January will be Dinosaur Week throughout the preschool. We will dig for bones, make dinosaur footprints, find toy dinos and dinosaur pictures *everywhere*, read and sing about dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp around and roar!

In the last week of January, our theme will be Castles. I'll get out the toy castles, and some blocks to add our own features to them. The children can dress up as knights, dragons, princes and princesses, and design their own royal crowns.

We certainly have a lot to look forward to in the New Year!

Ms. Auten



PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 17th 10am - 12pm

**Please let your family, friends, and
neighbors know!**

January... a month that usually has me longing for warmth and a beach somewhere. Whatever the weather might be outside though, in the 3s class we'll be having fun all month long.

We have a short week our first week back. We'll use these two days to talk about **Winter Weather and Play**. We'll focus on matching mittens, creating and dressing up snow people and observing the weather each day. We'll explore the cold, melt ice with salt water and will even create some "icy" pictures. We might even discover some "snow" in the Science Center to feel and smush.

The second week of January we'll be talking about what the local **Animals do in Winter**. Hopefully we'll be able to go outside for some nature walks to observe the birds and squirrels who are busy scavenging for food. We'll make a bagel bird feeder for the local birds and squirrels. Additionally, we'll talk about the animals who hibernate in the winter, like bears, frogs and ladybugs and those who go away to somewhere warm like geese and sea turtles. We'll fly like birds, lumber like bears and scurry like squirrels. We'll have lots of animals for which to build habitats, like trees, caves and ponds. We'll also see how many bears we can fit in a fuzzy mitten!

The week of January 15th is the beginning of our two week **Dinosaur** adventure! I know my friends will enjoy moving and acting like friendly dinosaurs. We'll have felt sets to explore, dinosaur fossils to discover in the sand box and dinosaur footprints to create. We'll compare different dinosaur features, graph our favorite dinosaurs and sing songs about dinosaurs. There will be plenty of dino playsets available in the Big Room and in the classroom. **No school Monday, January 15th or Friday, January 26th.**

Starting January 29th, we'll be talk about **Polar Animals**, those who live in those cold, snowy habitats of the North and South. Penguins, polar bears, snowy owls, arctic foxes, seals and whales will all be subjects of discussion. We'll talk about camouflage and the white colored animals who

blend with their surroundings. We'll be doing wax-resist painting to discover white drawings hiding in plain view. We'll slide on our bellies like penguins on scooters and create snowy playscapes for our arctic animals. **No school on Monday, January 29th.**

Around the middle of the month, once we are back into the swing of our schedule, we will be adding an element of "table work" to our mornings after some of our Morning Meetings. This will be an activity we do as a whole group sitting at the tables. These activities will help the children start increasing their ability to focus, follow simple directions and participate in a fine motor activity of someone else's choosing. We'll start small and build up the complexity of the activities as the year progresses.

Stay tuned for information about Conference Sign Ups. Don't forget to include both Ms. Emmy and I in any communications regarding drop-off or pick-up changes each day as well as when your child will be absent from school. As always, please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Ryan



Welcome back and Happy New Year! Happy New Year...2018, really? That holiday break really sailed by quickly. I hope everyone had a wonderful time, spent with family and friends...making wonderful memories. It was nice to have time to do nothing in particular, but enjoy being with those you love. Now

I am betting that your children missed their classmates and are ready for the second half of our preschool year. I know I am! I need to see my PNS family!

My planbook is full of exciting adventures and experiences...so let's get going! In any normal year, it would be cold outside and we would be experiencing some wintery fun! As I write this, that doesn't look promising, but a girl can still dream. (Yes, I am one of the weird ones who LOVES cold and snow!) Our winter theme(1/2) will provide us with a basis for several science explorations of liquid/solid and hot/cold. (This group loves experiments...they are fascinated with things that "change.") Each child will have the opportunity to experience what makes this season so unique...and fun! Then we are off to talk about polar animals(1/8). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls are just a few of the creatures that might make appearances during our circletime this week. And watch out for that glittery artwork! During the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. Yes, we will even don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinos and gravel in our sensory table to the rolling of "dinosaur eggs" to create beautiful paintings, the excitement runs high! Then on the 30th, we will move from thinking about dino bones to human bones as we begin reviewing our own body parts. There will be lots of movement going on in our classroom – it'll be a very active week!

There will be a couple of classroom management changes during January. The sign-in board and symbols have been retired for this year. There will be a new system of "attendance taking" for the children each morning. As they enter the classroom, there will be a "Question of the Day" for each child to answer. They will find their name on the chart board and respond to the question on the chart by "voting" with their name. This activity serves two purposes...each student must recognize his/her name to "vote" and then each child must make an individual decision about a specific question. (This is just another step in the progression we started in September...moving their symbol, moving their symbol with their name, and then moving their name to sign-in each morning.) I will also be phasing in more free choice during small motor time first thing each morning. The kids will be able to choose the activity that they want to play with (right from my cabinet!) instead of me making the choice for them. They will take the toy to the table or floor to play...and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. The Monday gang has been doing this for several weeks, and I am counting on them to model the

correct behavior for the rest of the group. It is one more way for the entire group to become more independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids have become at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of them! Children can become frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/herself when leaving home. Practice zipping that winter jacket...it's a very age appropriate skill to conquer. Also allow your child to walk into school carrying own their backpack and snackbox...I promise to make a fuss at how independent they are becoming! They love being "big kids!" Kelly and I are also encouraging the children to ask for help from their classmates if they come across something that they need assistance to do...zipping their coat, snapping on their bike helmet, opening a water bottle, tearing open a snack bag, etc. Learn by doing is our motto!

FYI: Conferences will take place on January 10th-11th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for about fifteen minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Soon, I will post a sign-up form on Bloomz, so that you can make your choice of conference times. I will be sending out a questionnaire to ask if there is anything specific that you would like to discuss during our time together. Also remember that there is no school on the 15th(MLK Day), and the 29th (an FCPS holiday). We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 17th during the PNS Open House. The Open House will be going on all around us, but we will be having a regular school day.

Please also remember that we WILL continue to go outside each day that the weather permits. That beautiful playground is fun - even when it is cold outside! So don't forget to send in those hats and mittens (that have been labeled!) every Providence day.

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters W(1/8) and D(1/22). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use. Their prereading skills are really improving. And each of them is writing their whole name now...I've seen so much growth!!!

WOW...what a month! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. You know by now how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is and how his/her skills are developing. Stay tuned...

Jane

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break. As we start this second half of the year, we'll all be adjusting to our new school schedules. By the end of the first two weeks, the children will all be familiar with the new routine. We'll have many similar jobs, but with different names and we'll find them on our Owl Tree. The Check-in Tree has snowflakes to hang when we arrive and remove when we depart. Our Morning Meetings will have changed a little as we add in daily personal Greetings and Energizers. We'll continue to answer and read the Morning Question in addition to the Morning Message. We'll also be adding in a Star of the Day element, which will incorporate leading the line, show and tell, weather and "reading" the Morning Message. Check out the Bloomz document with the other jobs we'll have each day so you can ask your child about which ones they had.

With these changes, we'll spend our first week back from break being **Senses Detectives**. We'll discuss our five senses in the context of observation and focus. We'll notice the changes in the room, make notes in our Journals, talk about seeing, hearing and feeling things with focus and even notice the "feel" of our breathing when we are calm. The Letter of the Week will be N for "notice, noise, nose," etc., and we'll review the Letter L for "look and listen". We'll have art projects involving all the senses, including a co-operative Music Mural to hang in the hallway.

The next week we'll be **Superheroes** with a focus on our secret superpower – Brain Power! We'll be introducing some Mindfulness concepts, like the parts of the Brain (Memory Bank, Guard Dog & Wise Old Owl) and how to focus our senses to calm our bodies. We'll also be talking about perseverance and the things they have already accomplished so far this year and then setting some personal goals on what we hope to accomplish in the second half of school year. We'll also be writing up a set of classroom rules based on the children's observations of what they need to be safe and happy at school and each child will sign their name to our plan. We'll be reviewing some Letters from previous weeks including M for "mind" and H for "heroes" and "hard work".

The week of January 15th **Dinosaurs** have taken over Providence Nursery School! We'll use graphs to compare dinosaurs, talk about what we know, wonder and learned about dinosaurs, and we'll have some active games to play. We'll also talk about how the Earth was different when the dinosaurs lived and hopefully write a creative class story for our library. Paleontology will be one of the many big words we learn this week. Maybe we'll even use some excavating skills ourselves.

The Letter of the Week will be D for "dinosaur" of course with a review of P for "paleontology."

The week of January 22nd we'll enter another new landscape – **Out in Space**. Scientific inquiries and our imaginations will be exercised this week. We'll be discussing gravity & air- can something exist even if we don't see it? We'll explore spin art and creative writing as we think up some great space adventures. Counting planets and stars will be part of the fun. We'll also be training in our own Personal Space Camp (about personal body space!) We'll complete several activities and experiments to help us determine appropriate body spacing in different settings and how to communicate our space needs with others. The Letter of the Week will be R and we'll be dancing to "Rocketship Run" and "launching" a hydraulic-powered moon rocket. **No school on Friday, January 26th.**

Our final week in January we'll be talking about **Feelings and Kindness**. In addition to talking about the labels of feeling words and how to recognize how our body physically reacts to different emotions, we'll also be introducing some yoga poses that are helpful for dealing with big, strong emotions. We'll paint our emotions, write a book about our Many Colored Days and add to our journals things that make us feel happy and sad. We'll make connections with our classmates by playing games like "This Side/That Side." We'll emphasize thinking of and helping others and being mindful in our actions. The concept of Filling Buckets will be introduced this week and the Class Comforter job will get a little more responsibility with helping fill our daily Buddy Bucket. We'll again be reviewing previous week's letters, with special emphasis on F for "feelings."

Keep sending in those hats, warm coats and fuzzy mittens. We do try to go outside most days and hopefully your children are getting very independent at putting on their own coats, hats and gloves. We'll be asking a friend to help us zip before asking a grown-up and it is a great opportunity for the children to be able to help each other out. **Please try and put a label on each article of outerwear so we can return misplaced pieces to their rightful owners.**

Stay tuned for information about Conference Sign Ups. Volunteering to help with our Open House this month is a great way to earn volunteer hours and it is especially helpful to have our veteran parents assist with the tours. Look for more info in this newsletter if you are interested in helping.

Please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing each of you in class, whether co-oping or just visiting.

Ms. Ryan

REMINDER

The second half of your materials fee is due with January tuition – you should have received this information from Jovial.

SUMMER CAMP

PNS offers an optional summer camp program following the regular school year. Look for enrollment flyers soon!

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Emailing the school or class Bloomz 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 the PNS Bloomz group. 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.

ENRICHMENT

The Fire Safety Truck Puppet Show will be visiting on January 17th in the Big Room. They will put on a puppet show about fire safety, and the firefighters will be there to show the kids what they look like fully dressed in gear. CDO, 2s, and siblings are welcome with a supervising parent.

Maja Strollo
Enrichment Coordinator

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.

Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours:

- Attend our cleanup/maintenance day on January 6th at 8:30-11:30

- Attend board meeting on Monday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. (counts as one hour)
- Volunteer at the PNS Open House on Wednesday, January 17, from 10 a.m. until noon. Childcare is provided for volunteers. There are volunteer spots for tour guides, check-in, and childcare.
- Assist our Bulletin Board/Art Show coordinator with the February art show at Kings Park Library by preparing and hanging the kids' artwork. Sign-up is forthcoming!
- We need volunteers for our nominating committee to determine the 2018-19 board slate. It will involve attendance at 2 meetings to be determined by committee member schedules.

Please check the "Signup" tab on Bloomz to volunteer for any of these.

Reminder: Being up to date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Please check your status on the hours tracking sheet; the link can be found under the "Media" tab under the Providence Nursery School group on Bloomz. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jensen on Bloomz or at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com.

ENROLLMENT

Just a reminder that 2018-2019 applications are due Friday, January 5th!

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)

FUNDRAISING

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our fundraisers so far this school year. We raised over \$1,000 from the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, which is more than last year. Also thank you again to all the volunteers who helped with Holiday Shop and those who participated in shopping. Together we made it a success. We are looking for ideas for our spring raffle, if anyone wants to suggest a business we can check with.

Thank you for your support!
Carisa Pineda and Sarah Millward

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee: Carisa Pineda, Sarah & John Millward and the Levy and Test families for all of their work leading the Barnes and Noble book fair. Thank you to Miss Ryan, Ms. Auten, Mrs. Millward, Mrs. Wallace and Miss Allison for reading and sharing songs with us at Barnes & Noble day. Thank you to all who supported PNS through their shopping efforts both in store and online. Thank you to everyone who is scheduled to help with our rescheduled Holiday Shop! A special thank you to our aides: Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Kelly and Miss Laura who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year. A great big thank you to Mrs. Wallace for stepping in to teach the 4s class and to Miss Ryan for offering to teach the 3s AND the 4s class for the remainder of the school year starting after winter break.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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



JANUARY 2018

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i> Tuition Due	2 School Resumes	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board Meeting 7:30pm	9 <u>Parent Teacher</u> <u>Conferences</u>	10 <u>Parent Teacher</u> <u>Conferences</u>	11 <u>Parent Teacher</u> <u>Conferences</u>	12 <u>Parent Teacher</u> <u>Conferences</u>	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL <i>Martin Luther</i> <i>King Jr. Day</i>	16	17 <i>PNS OPEN HOUSE</i> <i>10am-12pm</i> <i>Children Welcome</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 NO SCHOOL <i>FCPS Holiday</i>	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL <i>FCPS Holiday</i>	30	31			