

The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 8

April 2013

A Letter from Kelly...

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break! Welcome back as we get ready for the final race toward the end of the school year. It's hard to believe we are almost there.

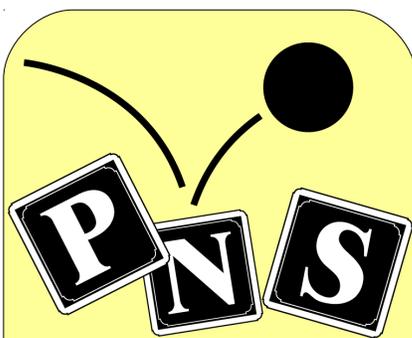
I need to give recognition to the outgoing executive board members who have helped run our school this year. I couldn't have done my job without their help and support along the way. A big, big thank you goes out to Susanne Fitch, Sherry Steeley, Laura Braceland, and Jennifer Mack who will be leaving the board this year. Thanks also to Liz Claeys, Alex Erickson, Kelley Raich, and Kyle Durbin for all they have done this past year and for staying on to serve again in the 2013 – 2014 school year. They will be joined by new board members Natalie Gray, Jennifer Brooks, Barbara Rosand, and Leah Fogarty.

It is not just our board members who need recognition. We have an amazing bunch of parents and I have always been, and still continue to be, totally impressed and inspired by all that each and every one of you do to give our children such a wonderful experience at school!

The April 8th board meeting will be held at 7:30 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 is also on the horizon. If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. 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.

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

Babysitting Day and Raffle Fundraiser

Saturday, April 6th 9:30am-12:30 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, April 8th 7:30 pm

No School

Monday, April 15th

Parent Teacher

Conferences

Tuesday, April 16th - 4s

Wednesday, April 17th &
Friday, April 19th-3s

Wednesday, April 17th &
Thursday, April 18th-3/4s

Friday, April 19th &
Monday, April 22nd -CDO

Clean-up/Maintenance Day

Saturday, April 20th

Spring Coffee

Monday, April 29th

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to kellyvolciak@yahoo.com by April 20th for Mays issue.

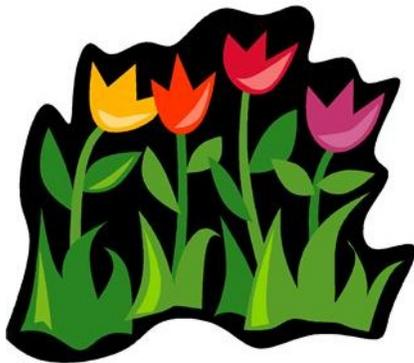
CDO & 2s

We'll begin April by talking about Numbers. We'll count forwards and backwards while lining up and playing jumping games. Our emphasis this week will be on the numbers 1, 2, and 3. We'll make our own number books. This week we'll also have a numbered ring toss and play hop scotch.

April 8th through the 12th, we will learn about sports- Baseball, Basketball and Soccer. The art table will reflect the theme, as we make basketballs and nets. During circle time, we'll sort balls by their sport, have out our own slow motion baseball game, and sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". My daughter will visit and show everyone her Lacrosse equipment.

During the week of April 15th we'll start a Shape theme. We'll search the school for hidden circles and glue wheels on cars. During circle time we'll roll, count and compare circles. We'll make triangles out of popsicle sticks and play games throwing bean bags onto triangles. We'll end the theme by painting with square sponges.

We'll end the month by learning about plants and flowers. If weather allows, we'll take a walk along our nature trail to look for signs of spring. We'll also make some smashed flower art. This week we'll be gardening at the sensory table as well as planting our own seeds and (hopefully) watching them grow.



I'm looking forward to chatting with you about your beautiful children during our spring conferences,

which are scheduled for April 18th in the 2s class and for April 19th and 22nd in CDO. Watch for more information and a conference sign-up sheet during the first week of April.

April is always a hectic time in the Bengtson house. My daughter plays Lacrosse and my son runs track in the spring. Scout camping becomes more frequent and be-

gins to take over our weekends. By the end of April I'm longing for things to slow down. I'm trying to cultivate some downtime for my family this spring. Are you?

Downtime is truly unstructured, "go play" time. Pediatricians recommend that children have an hour of downtime a day through ten years old. With the pace of life, downtime can be hard to come by. Here are a few ideas to help:



- **Turn off the TV and computers** – When children are in front of a screen they are still being entertained. It can be helpful to set guidelines for screen time for the family and then really stick to it.
- **Provide space** - Think about the activities your child prefers and then create the space around them.
- **Build downtime into the schedule** - If you tend to over schedule, you may have to actually put this on the calendar.
- **Focus on open ended toys** - It may be helpful to provide more basic, open-ended toys such as blocks, dolls, balls or a cardboard box. Once given, let children plan and lead the play.
- **Get them outside**
- **A little boredom is good** - Children who can't entertain themselves and get bored easily, likely just need more practice. Have patience, this is a good skill to develop. Researchers have found that down time promotes creativity.

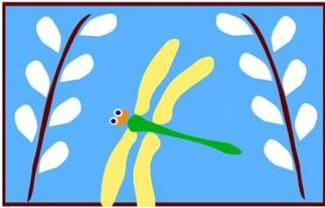
Mrs. B

3s

You know what they say: “April showers bring May flowers.” Let’s see if it’s true. We’ve got lots of outdoorsy things to do this month, as well as fun things for indoors, too.

The first week of April will be devoted to all things Spring. We’ll decorate flowers, do some daffodil “magic” and talk about baby animals. There will be a Wonderful Wednesday enrichment program called “Uno, Dos, Tres” this week also.

Spring also means getting out in the Garden. We will investigate plant life cycles and beans will be sprouting on the window sills. We will pretend to be seeds down in the dirt and “wake up” when we feel the sun and rain.



Lots of Bugs should be out by now. We can collect them, inspect them, count their legs and body parts and then let them go. (Or just use the plastic ones inside!) We may try our hands at hatching some ladybugs this year in addition to our annual butterfly project. Of course, the birds will be busy catching the bugs and building nests, so we’ll check out our feathered friends on a nature walk. We will become pros at identifying some of our favorite backyard birds.

Pond Life is always a fun theme, with investigations of frogs, turtles, fish and snakes. A field trip to Jerome “Buddy” Ford Nature Center is planned for April 26th and they have a great pond there.

We should get lots of bike riding and truck pushing time outside this month and maybe have a few “picnic” snacks if the weather permits.

Wednesday and Friday, April 17th and 19th, are the dates for our second parent/teacher conferences. We can compare our notes from the last conferences and look forward to next year. I’ll get the sign up sheet out soon so you can mark your calendars.

Take a deep breath and enjoy the spring weather!!

Miss Susan

Presto! Presenting The Case of the Missing Viola

On Sunday, May 5, 2013 at 4:00 p.m, Providence Presbyterian Church is hosting a FREE music program for young children. There will be string instruments, magic, and story-telling led by a trio of performers and a Meet-the-Artists reception with light refreshments after the performance.

Dynamic Duo, formed in conjunction with the National Symphony Orchestra’s Education Department, has been performing for school children since 2005. Violinist Karen Lowry-Tucker and violist Elisabeth Pulju-Owen, both members of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, share a love of music and story-telling which they combine to engage and enlighten young minds. In 2010, cellist/magician, Drew Owen, cello instructor at Howard University and the Washington Conservatory of Music, joined forces with Karen and Elizabeth to form **Presto!** Presto! blends music with magic and storytelling to captivate student audiences while introducing them to string instruments, musical concepts and life lessons. Dynamic Duo and Presto! Have recently joined Fairfax County’s CAPs (Creative Arts Programs), Arlington County’s Humanities Project, and Montgomery County Cultural Arts.



3/4s

“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.

We’ll start the month off talking about Spring and the changes that occur with this new season. Then we’ll move into a week talking about what grows in the garden and why? We’ll learn more about plants...and what it takes to make plants grow. We’ll do some veggie printing... and we may even plant a plant or two. The first two weeks of April will just fly by!

Then on the 16th, we’ll begin our 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. Then during the week of April 22nd, we will be “invaded” by bugs of all shapes and sizes. Stand by for lots of creepy, crawly art, math, and science experiments. We’ll take a field trip to Hidden Pond Nature Center on Wednesday, the 24th, to see examples of what we’ve “studied.” Stay tuned for details from Mary concerning our trip!



We will end the month discussing who are the workers in our neighborhood...community helpers week is always a time filled with lively conversations and great dramatic play opportunities! I wonder what all my little friends will say when they are asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I will let you know!

Conferences will be held on Wednesday (4/17) and Thursday (4/18) during school hours. Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, and the co-opping 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 out the sign up sheets after Spring Break. I look forward to speaking with all of you... your kids are all so terrific that I just want to make sure that you know how special they really are! Letters for the Monday gang are O (4/1), N (4/18), C & K (4/22), and J (4/29). 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

Babysitting Day and Raffle

Plan to drop off the kids and enjoy a little adult time on Saturday, April 6th. **This event is open to current PNS students and older siblings only.** We will be entertaining the kids for 3 full hours, from 9:30 to 12:30. We will have snacks, crafts, and games. Please RSVP early as there are a limited number of spots, especially for the younger kids (CDO and 2s). The price for the first child will be \$20, payable in advance, and \$10 for each additional child. Prices at the door will be \$25 and \$15. We are accepting RSVPs for this already. Money can be placed in the Fundraising Mailbox in the Music Room.

Look for our display of raffle items in the Music Room during the first week of April. Tickets will be \$1 each or a dozen for \$10. Raffle tickets will go on sale on April 1st. The drawing will take place at noon on April 6th (before the end of our babysitting event). Winners do not need to be present. Thanks to all of you who are helping with class baskets!



4s

The April forecast calls for showers of learning and frequent downpours of fun! Just pop open your umbrella and join in this month's flood of fun.

Our units of study this month will be the Spring Vegetable Garden, Pond Life, Bugs and Birds.



We will play and pretend that we are growing vegetables and selling these yummy veggies as we attempt to change an area of the big room into a vegetable stand. We will also dip some veggies into paint to make veggie prints. This week is a golden opportunity to send those yummy veggies in for a snack.

The week of April 16th finds us taking the plunge as we attempt to make a Pond come to life. We will have a frog's eye view of life in a small pond. We will be swimming like fish, hopping and diving like frogs, crawling and climbing like insects and slithering like snakes. I'm sure to have some eager beavers, who also live in ponds, as the sandbox is transformed into a beaver dam.

Birds and Bugs is our last week's theme of April. We will be marching like ants and singing like birds.

On Tuesday April 16th I will be holding year end conferences. A sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway. I don't believe that I'm even using the word year-end how is that possible?

Happy April to All!! Love,

Judy

Circus Tickets

Join other PNS families at the Patriot Center for the Ringling Brothers Circus! Thanks once again to Bridget Benov and Feld Entertainment, we have circus tickets for the Sunday, April 14th show. The show starts at 5pm, but you can come an hour early to meet performers, enjoy the clowns, and try on the costumes! Tickets are being sold for \$25 apiece (normally valued at \$30), and the seats are in Sections 101 and 102. Tickets are being sold on a first-come, first-served basis; and they are not limited to PNS families, so you may purchase extra tickets for family, friends, or neighbors if you wish. Please put checks in the fundraising mailbox with your name and contact information.



Wonderful Wednesdays Enrichment!

Dear PNS Families,

I am so excited that April 3rd is right around the corner. Please be sure to mark your calendar to join us for *Uno Dos Tres con Andres!* Andres Salguero is a fantastic local children's performer guaranteed to get our little ones shaking, singing, shouting and maybe even learning a little. Twos, CDO and siblings are welcome to join in the fun. Look for an e-mail closer to the date confirming the time and room. Be sure not to miss out on this one!

-Aimee Emmerich



Volunteer Opportunities

You have less than 2 months to complete your volunteer hours so please let me know if you are concerned about completing them and I will assist you with getting them scheduled. Luckily April is a busy month with lots of opportunities to help out. Thanks to everyone who has already finished their hours (and a big thanks to those that continue to volunteer even after your hours are met- this is a huge help!)

If you have already attended your mandatory clean-up day/s consider attending our clean up on April 20 to earn 3 volunteer hours. If you are buying out of your maintenance day please leave \$40 for Treasurer and let me know you are buying out.

Sub needs:

Wednesday, April 3 - Lunch bunch (should be enrolled in lunch bunch already)

Saturday, April 6 - See fundraising committee for volunteer opportunities at the fundraiser

Monday, April 8 - Attend the board meeting for an hour of credit

Thursday, April 18 - Sub for lunch bunch so teachers may attend VCPC Awards luncheon

Friday, April 19 - Sub for CDO conferences from 9:30-12:30

Saturday, April 20 - Attend the Cleaning and Maintenance Day from 8:30-11:30am

Monday, April 29 - Assist with set up/clean up or provide food for Spring Coffee, watch for an email about this later in month

-Jennifer Mack/Natalie Gray

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Elizabeth & Craig Carroll, who welcomed daughter Lily Margaret to their family on March 9, 2013. Big Brother Stanley is in the CDO class.

Congratulations to Britt and Joe Estabrooks on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Lynn, also born on March 9th! Natalie's big sister is Samantha in CDO.

Congratulations to Natalie and Ed Gray on the birth of their daughter Kate Sophia born on March 29th. Kate's big sister, Julia, is in the 3/4s class and her big brother, Nick, is in the 2s class.

Thank You to:

- Thank you to Alexandra Hume for coordinating our parent education program this year.
- Thank you to our social committee members, Michelle Danis, Victor Crutchfield, and Jack and Mandi Felici, for coordinating volunteers and refreshments for our March membership meeting and to all who donated refreshments or helped with set-up and clean-up: Jennifer and Kris Mack, Thao Hoang, Prassu Mehta, Jenn Truong, Whitney Brown, and Paula Rudnicka.
- Thank you to Kristen Konisky for working on the VCPC award nominations and for her dedication to VCPC and PNS throughout the year.
- Thank you to Bridget Benov and Betty Wang for organizing our dress-up area throughout the year and always making sure the kids have fun costumes to wear.
- Thank you to Bridget Benov for donating circus tickets to be used as a fundraiser for our school.
- And finally, thanks to our outgoing e-board members for all their work this year: Susanne Fitch, Sherry Steeley, Jennifer Mack, and Laura Braceland. You will be missed!

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Enrichment: <i>Uno Dos Tres con Andres!</i>	4	5	6 Fundraiser: Babysitting Day and Raffle
7	8 PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Room	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 No School	16 Parent Teacher Conferences-4s Class	17 Parent Teacher Conferences-3s & 3/4s Class	18 Parent Teacher Conferences-2s & 3/4s	19 Parent Teacher Conferences-3s & CDO	20 Final Cleaning & Maint. Day 8:30-11:30 am
21	22 Parent Teacher Conferences-CDO	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Spring Coffee 7:30 pm	30				