

The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 6

February 2013

A Letter from Kelly...

Wow! It's hard to believe its February already, but the weather we've had is certainly a reminder that winter is here. Cold, cold, cold! But don't worry; even if we are forced to stay indoors, we have plenty of tricks up our sleeves at PNS to keep things fun and festive. Please don't forget to send your little ones in warm jackets with hats and mittens. Co-oping parents should also be prepared to spend some time on the playground each day. Bundle up!

Enrollment for next year is in full swing. A huge thank you to Kyle Durbin and her group of eager volunteers who ensured we had a very successful Open House. I'd also like to say thanks to our teachers and aides for keeping classes running as smoothly as ever with so much activity going on around them that morning. I know many prospective families enjoyed seeing the students playing and learning, imagining their own children doing the same next year. Though the Open House is over, enrollment for new families will continue throughout the spring. The best way we can let families know about PNS is through word of mouth. Please spread the word about our school to anyone you think might be interested in joining our PNS family. I am so excited to see how many of you will be returning to PNS. I am also saddened and in disbelief that this will be the last time I enroll my own child. The preschool years really do fly by!

Enrollment isn't the only way we are preparing for the new school year. We are continuing to work on putting forth a slate of candidates for next year's executive board. We hope to be able to present our candidates at our board meeting on February 11th. If you think you may be interested, please let me know. Remember, without an executive board, PNS cannot operate as a successful cooperative preschool. Parent participation is everything to this school. We need volunteers! I'd be happy to give you information on any of our positions or answer any questions you may have about what it means to be a board member at PNS.

On Saturday, February 23rd, PNS will hold its annual VIP Day. Who are those Very Important People in your child's life (aside from you of course!)? Does Dad ever have the chance to see what's happening at PNS? Would Grandma or Grandpa like to visit the school? How about a favorite aunt, uncle, or neighbor? VIP Day is the perfect time for a family member or special friend who normally doesn't get to see your child at school come to visit.

Finally, looking ahead to March, please make sure to put Monday, March 11th on your calendar. That is the night of our annual membership meeting, attendance at which is required for all families so the new members of the executive board can be voted in. The vote takes just a few minutes and then you are free to leave or stay and join us for our monthly board meeting.

As always, thanks to all of our families for making PNS a special place for our children to spend their mornings. Please feel free to let me know if I can be of any assistance throughout the rest of the school year!

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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

Mark your Calendar

PNS Art Show
Kings Park Library
February 1st - 28th

Clean-up & Maint. Day
Saturday, February 9th
8:30 am - 11:30 pm

Board Meeting
Monday, February 11th
7:30pm

Presidents Day Holiday
(NO SCHOOL)
Monday, February 18th

VIP Day
Saturday, February 23rd
10 am - 12 pm

MARCH...

Parent brunches
March 4th - March 8th

Mandatory Membership Meeting
Monday, March 11th 7:30pm

House Of Bounce Fundraiser
- NO SCHOOL
(PACT CONFERENCE)
Tuesday, March 12th

Spring Break!
March 25th-29th

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

**CDO
& 2s**

Our theme for the first week of February will be Dental Health. We'll pretend to be dentists as we take cavities out

of play dough teeth. We'll paint with toothpaste and compare the size of an elephant's teeth with our own.

February brings Valentine's Day fun. You would think that at this age they wouldn't understand a day devoted to love, but trust me - they do. We have some friendships growing in both classes, and the chance to share valentines with each other is very special. On February 11th we'll exchange valentines in the cdo class and on February 14th we'll exchange valentines in the 2s class . Please buy or make cards with your child (this can be a fun easy home project) to pass out to the entire class. If you sign your cards but



don't label the envelopes- it makes distribution a lot easier for my young postal workers.



While making holiday cards, take the time to look at how your child is using his hands. In class we've been working on holding crayons and markers at the bottom

and always using a helping hand to stabilize the paper while we color. We're also talking about having our thumbs up when we use scissors. We've practiced putting glue on the back of a picture and then flipping it over so the glue kisses the paper and sticks. Let me know if your child is talking about or modeling these fine motor skills at home.

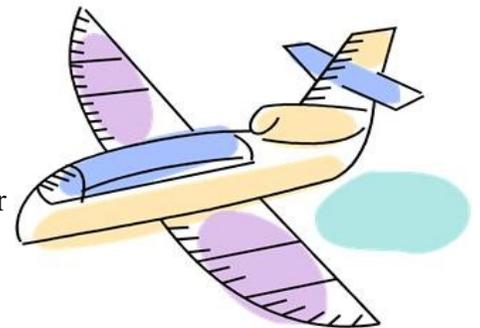
During the week of February 18th we'll start our monkey theme. We'll read one of my favorite books- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina. We'll feed bananas to monkeys in the big room and play follow the leader (monkey see monkey do) in circle time.

The last week of February is always fun for the kids as we study planes, boats, trains, and other modes of transportation. This is the time of year that we do "Big Roller" art – an annual favorite. We'll also drive cars in paint, and zoom boats in a sea of shaving cream (wear a wet suit if you're helping in the classroom). We'll sing a lot of cute songs (including my favorite dump truck song) so be sure to check the music section of our weekly email.



On February 23th we'll have school on a Saturday! This is a day when your child can bring a VIP, a Very Important Person to school. The VIP is someone who doesn't normally get to come to school- perhaps a dad, a grandparent, an aunt or a special grown-up. We'll have art projects for your student to try out with his or her special guest. The students can also introduce their VIPs to Mrs. B and Obi, as well as show them some of the things they do in school.

Because it's the month that we set aside a day to honor LOVE, let me say that I just love your children. They are truly precious.



Mrs. B

3s

Our hearts are all a-flutter because it's February, the month of love! We have settled back into our school routines and, as usual, everybody seems a little more grown up and ready to take on the world (or at least their preschool world). That's a good thing, because we've got plenty to do this month.

Our first theme of the month is Dental Health. We're at the age for first visits to the dentist and learning to take care of our teeth, so a little fun with toothbrushes and dental floss is in order. Our field trip to a dentist's office on January 30th was a good introduction.

Then we'll talk about friends and loved ones during Love and Friendship Week. Hearts of red and pink will be all over the place. Hopefully some of them will make their way home to you. We are going to "mail" our valentines to each other at school, so be sure to include the symbols when addressing them. I'll send home a list with instructions and everyone's symbol on it, but I bet the kids already know them. It's so much fun to deliver all those valentines.



Transportation is the last theme of the month. Everybody loves things that go: cars, trains, boats and planes. And we've got art projects, books and songs about all of those vehicles, too. I hope we get to have some bike days this month, too.

There are two special events in February. The first is our annual Art Show. Selected masterpieces created by your talented children will be displayed this month at Kings Park Library. Be sure to arrange a visit. Seeing one's work on exhibit in public is very exciting! The second special event is VIP Day. The VIP is a parent, relative or special grown-up friend who doesn't normally get to come to school. On February 23rd, from 10:00AM to Noon, the Big Room will be an open house of crafts and games and fun with all your preschool friends and VIPs.

As you can see, we've got an action packed month ahead. Let's get to it!!

Miss Susan

Summer Camp

After Memorial Day, some of the teachers will be leading a "summer camp" experience for our little ones. The emphasis is on fun, with a different theme each week.

On Wednesdays – weather permitting – we will set up pools and sprinklers for the kids to splash in! Come join us for songs, games, arts and crafts, stories, and learning through play.



Space is limited! Registration will run until all classes are filled. We will notify you of class placement by April 15th. Tuition is due in full by May 1st. Total program tuition is non-refundable.

Summer Program registrations for in-house applications will be accepted February 4th – February 8th.

SESSION I: May 28th – June 7th

SESSION II: June 10th – June 21st

There is a \$40 registration fee due with your registration form. Look for the registration forms in your PNSALL emails on February 1st or on our website (<http://www.providencenurseryschool.com/summer.jsp>).

If you have any questions, see the details on the website or contact camp co-directors Anja Wright and Kristen Konisky at summerschool@providencenurseryschool.com.

3/4s

January certainly was a month of changes...the weather was warm and then the weather was COLD! Our sign-in board changed to having the children's names on it –and now everyone gets to “vote” before they enter the classroom. And the kids are choosing their own toys from my blue cabinet during Open Center time. They have to put that toy back before choosing another one, too. Just another one of those life skills that we keep working on... So the month just flew by, and I still do miss all those dinosaurs!

February brings us lots of new adventures. The week of February 4th will be a unit on body parts. There are so many fun activities to review all of our “important” body parts...songs and dances will be high on my list this week. Plus I have a bunch of silly books that I can't wait to share! Simon Says, “Clap your hands!”

Next we'll celebrate a week filled with Valentine activities...special headbands, heart pins, and beaded necklaces. We will exchange Valentine cards on Valentine Day, February 14th. On that day, I would like each child to bring a valentine for every member of the class. And may I ask a big favor of each of you? Please “address” each envelope with both the child's name and colored symbol. That way your child will be able to “mail” the valentines to his/her friends...all by themselves. (You know me and my hope of independence for all!) The kids love this activity and it makes Valentine's Day very special. (I will send home a list of symbols soon.) Would anyone like to send in a special Valentine snack for the class to share? It doesn't have to be elaborate...we will think it's



special no matter what it is!

Then comes one of my very favorite units...construction vehicles. During the week of February 19th, we'll be discussing all sorts of information about different types and purposes of construction trucks. There will also be a very special field trip this month to visit the Virginia Department of Transportation garage in Merrifield to see all the different types of vehicles used by the state. How cool is that? More details to follow.

The month ends with a theme week talking about Nursery Rhymes. We will spend a lot of time rhyming silly words and making our own rhymes. And wait 'til you see all the cool “stuff” we'll do this week! Humpty Dumpty, Ole King Cole, and that little spider with a drain spout all play major roles during circletime and art.

The Monday 4s gang will be working with the letters B, V, and E. You should hear them starting to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit of this group! Mondays are definitely fun days!

Please put VIP Day on your calendar. We look forward to see your PNS student and their special grown-up on Saturday, February 23rd from 10:00 – 12:00. And remember – no school on February 18th (Presidents' Day). Are you ready - it's going to be a LOVE-ly month!

Jane

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 if anyone listed as an emergency contact has new information -- please let PNS know. Email Susanne Fitch, VP Forms, at swunner@yahoo.com, with updates.



Is your child heading to the doctor for immunizations? Please request a copy of your child's updated immunization records for PNS and provide it to Susanne Fitch. (This should be free of charge at your doctor's office.) Thank you for keeping PNS in the loop for your child's safety!

4s

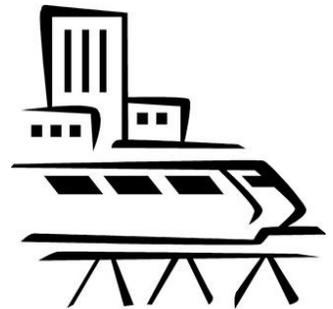
Wow!!!! The first month of the New Year has slipped by so fast. We loved roaring like dinosaurs. Wow!! What a January.

Now, on to February! During the month of February lots of fun activities have been planned for our class. Throughout the first week of February, we will be discussing Groundhogs while Dental Health is the topic for the week of February 5th-8th. A play dentist office will be ready for some dentists and patients as the children role play during the big room time. We will also try brushing on paper with a toothbrush dipped in paint.



Next, we will study Love and Friendship from February 11th-15th. Many heart shaped craft projects will come home that week. On February 14th, we will have a class Valentine celebration. On this day, each child is welcome to bring a valentine for the other class members. Please start early having your child address and sign his or her Valentine cards.

The last two weeks of February will find us discovering many types of transportation from roads and rails to sea and sky.



Mark your calendar. February 23rd from 10 until noon is the annual VIP Day. Come and join the fun with your Very Important Person.

Judy

VCPC Awards!

The Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council will be accepting nominations for VCPC member schools' parents whose commitment over the past year has been superior. Perhaps you can think of someone whose contribution has been substantial and nominate him or her for this award. The nomination process will begin at the February board meeting, with the PNS's final parent nominee to be selected at the March board meeting. Nomination forms will be available on the sign-in tables and by e-mail to ellswokm@yahoo.com.

Please nominate a parent who made a significant difference in one particular area or in the school as a whole. For example, someone who ...

- Expended extra time and energy in improving the school program, library, etc.
- Led major fundraising efforts thereby providing the school financial support to accomplish goals.
- Took the lead in physical improvements to the building or playground.
- Created a classroom environment of exceptional creativity.



All nominations must be received by noon on the day of the March board meeting. Thank you all for your help!

-Kristen Konisky, VCPC Representative

Come enjoy the PNS Art Show!

The PNS Art Show is held annually in the children's section of the **Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road**. For those of you new to PNS or unfamiliar with the art show, each year our wonderful teachers select one piece of art per student to be displayed at the library. Families are invited to view the artwork at their own leisure whenever they choose to visit the library throughout the entire month of February. What a fabulous chance for your young artist to see his/her masterpiece displayed in a public setting! Come and enjoy!

Wonderful Wednesdays Enrichment!

This month for enrichment, the Wildlife Ambassadors will visit on February 6th. CDO, Twos and siblings are welcome to join us with parents. And equally exciting, February 20th, I am hoping to have a musical surprise for all. Look for details coming soon!
-Aimee Emmerich



Parent Surveys

Keep an eye on your in-boxes for your parent surveys. The surveys are done electronically and will only take a couple of minutes to complete. These surveys provide important feedback about our school. It is a fantastic opportunity to have your voice heard so don't miss out!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Wednesday, February 6th – Sub for lunch bunch from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.
- Saturday, February 9th Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30-11:30am. There is only one more Cleaning and Maintenance Day left for the year after this one (it's on April 20th), so please attend if you need to get your requirement met!

- Monday, February 11th Attend the board meeting for one hour credit and learn more about what is going on in our school

As always if you have concerns about meeting your hours please let me know and we can work out a plan.
Thanks, Jennifer Mack

Fundraising

Plan to join friends from PNS at the House of Bounce on Tuesday, March 12th. There is no school that day, due to a PACT conference. The Fundraising Committee will be selling discount tickets for the morning bounce session (10:30 to 12:00) and House of Bounce will be offering pizza for purchase afterwards. More details to come at the end of February.

Also, the Committee is already busy planning our spring fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 6th. As always, we will be holding a raffle. Please let us know if you have any ideas about businesses that we could solicit for a raffle item or gift certificate, or if you are personally interested in donating a good or service. (Donation of items or services or time spent soliciting raffle prizes would count as volunteer hours!)

Thank You to:

- Thank you to Alex Hume for arranging the PNS speech screenings.
- Thank you to Thao Hoang for taking such good care of our animals throughout the year.
- Thanks to Aimee Emmerich and Jessie Auten for making the papier-mâché eggs for the 3s Dinosaur Days.
- Thank you to Kyle Durbin for all the hard work she put into our Open House.
- Thank you to Michelle Danis and Victor Crutchfield for providing the refreshments for Open House and to all who volunteered: Susanne Fitch, Anja Wright, Liz Claeys, Alex Hume, Leah Fogarty, Mandi Felici, Jennifer Brooks, Dawn Ahrens, Jennifer Mack, and Sue Bengston. Whether you were conducting tours and answering questions, helping prospective families get registered, or babysitting the children of other volunteers, you all did a terrific job representing our school!

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PNS Art Show begins at Kings Park Library	2
3	4	5	6 Enrichment: Wildlife Ambassadors	7	8	9 Clean-up & Maint. Day 8:30-11:30 am
10	11 PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Meeting	12	13	14  Happy Valentines Day!	15	16
17	18 President's Day NO SCHOOL!	19	20 Enrichment: Suprise Presentation	21	22	23 VIP DAY 10 am-12 noon
24	25	26	27	28 PNS Art Show ends at Kings Park Library		

Important Dates In MARCH!

March 4th – March 8th – Parent brunches will be held. Check with your teachers or class rep for details.

Monday, March 11th at 7:30 – Mandatory Membership Meeting. A representative from all current PNS families is required to attend to vote in the new Executive Board. The monthly board meeting will follow.

Tuesday, March 12th – NO SCHOOL (PACT CONFERENCE) – House Of Bounce Fundraiser 10:30-12 noon

Monday, March 25th – Friday, March 29th – NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)