

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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www.providencenurseryschool.com

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Kelly...

Happy New Year and welcome back to PNS! I hope that all of you had a wonderful winter break and fun-filled New Year's celebration with family and friends. I'm sure we are all well rested and ready to tackle another year, or at least just ready to tackle another year. In keeping with tradition here at PNS, we're off and running with a very busy January schedule.

Most importantly...registration for the 2014 – 2015 school year! Priority registration for currently enrolled families is in full swing. If you did not receive your enrollment form before break, please contact Kyle Durbin at pnsmembership@providencenurseryschool.com. All forms are due back to Kyle by Friday, January 10th. Although we do try our best to accommodate everyone's first choice of class selection, it is sometimes necessary to form waitlists and hold lotteries, even for our in-house families. Please be patient while we complete this process. We will let you know how the rosters are shaping up as soon as possible.

If you know anyone who may be interested in PNS for their children, I encourage you to invite them to attend our Open House on January 22nd between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. School is in session during this time so it is a great chance for prospective families to see how much all the kids love our school. We do need volunteers to make this morning a success. Please consider volunteering your time to give tours and answer questions. It is a very busy morning and we need all the help we can get.

At the December board meeting, a nominating committee was formed to look for volunteers to serve on the 2014/2015 Executive Board. If you are interested in a position, please talk to one of our committee members: Natalie Gray, Britt Estabrooks, Leah Fogarty, or me. You can also speak with any member of the current E-Board if you are curious about a specific position. There is no better way to get involved in your child's school, make new friends with similar interests, and take part in important school decisions than to serve on the E-board. I highly recommend it!

Also at the December board meeting, our summer school co-directors were announced. Thank you to Anja Wright and Mara Surridge for taking on the job. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment flyers will be out next month!

Finally, we have a few school closings this month: January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. day, and January 30th and 31st for FCPS holidays.

I hope this year will be a happy and successful one for all of us. Happy 2014!

Kelly



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 6th
School Resumes

Monday January 13th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January 14th thru 17th
Parent Teacher Conferences
3s, 3/4s, & 4s

Monday January 20th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 22nd
Open House
School in session

**Thursday January 30th &
Friday January 31st**
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday

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CDO & 2's

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a full and happy holiday break, and that you are as ready as I am to get back to school. I have missed all of my little friends! I want to extend a warm welcome to the two new friends joining our CDO class this month, as well. We are so glad you are here.

During the first week of January, we will start out taking a look at the winter weather around us: snow and cold, sledding and snowmen. We will make observations about the weather, use our senses to examine ice, and use our imaginations as we pretend to sled, skate, and ski.

For the second week of the month we will be talking about night – both what happens outside in the sky,

and what happens inside as we get ready for bedtime. There will be many renditions of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, many good books about night and sleeping, and some beautiful starry art to dazzle you!

The last two weeks will be all about dinosaurs. We will dig for bones, make dinosaur footprints and “dinosaur egg” art, read and sing about dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp and roar.

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

Ms. Auten

Interested In An Executive Board (E-Board) Position?

The nominating committee will soon begin to find interested parents to serve on next year's Executive Board. The Executive Board consists of the following positions: President or Co-Presidents, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Membership - Enrollment, Vice President of Membership - Forms, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Fundraising Chair or Co-Chairs. E-board members must attend the monthly board meeting and are very involved in the administration of the school. Because these jobs take more time, parents who serve on the executive board are not required to complete 8 volunteer hours; the materials fee for the oldest child is also waived (if a position is shared, the materials fee is also shared). The new executive board takes over at the April board meeting. If you are interested in learning more about a specific position, please feel free to contact the current board member to ask questions. You can also see a summary of each executive board job description in the family jobs section of our website – www.providencenurseryschool.com.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is your favorite cold weather activity?

The most popular response to this question was playing with your kids in the snow! This last snow our family made a snowman who greeted all our friends and neighbors for a good week before he melted.

Thank you for all the responses, February's question is: **What is the best conversation heart phrase?**

Welcome back!! I hope you all had a wonderful, extra-long holiday break and are ready for 2014. It's always interesting to see how much the children "grow up" during that break, even though it's only a short period of time. Everyone seems to come back ready to play with friends and try new things.

We'll get the new year started with some Wintery Fun. If the weather cooperates we can investigate the science of freezing and thawing. If it doesn't we can make up for it with our own winter fun indoors. We'll help the birds by making Cheerios feeders and paint with ice cubes. Mitten matching and indoor snowman building will keep us busy, too. The other theme of the month is so huge it needs two weeks – DINOSAURS! They will be all over the school – stomping across the art table, peeking out of the books, climbing our "dinosaur mountain" and lurking in the sensory table. What's not to love about those terrible lizards!?

There are a couple of noteworthy events coming up this month. On January 15th and 17th, I will set aside time for Parent/Teacher Conferences. This will give us a few uninterrupted moments to talk about your students, how they are doing and goals for the rest of the year. I'll put a sign-up sheet near the check in so you can get this on your calendars. Then on Wednesday the 22nd, PNS will hold its annual Open House to show off our school to prospective families for next year. We will have a normal school day while our visitors come see all the great stuff we do. We have two Wonderful Wednesdays scheduled: Groovy Nate on the 8th and Mr. Skip on the 22nd.

Remember to send hats, scarves and mittens (better than gloves) to school in case we get to use the playground. We'll keep our fingers crossed for that!

So welcome back and Happy New Year!!

Miss Susan



Happy New Year...and welcome 2014! I am having trouble wrapping my head around the fact that it is already January. I hope each of your winter breaks were spent enjoying family and friends...and that your children are now ready for the second half of our preschool year. My planbook is full of exciting adventures and experiences...so let's get started!

Brrr...cold weather is here and we will be off to a fast and furious start with a unit of wintery fun. This theme provides us with a basis for several science explorations using water, ice, and snow. (This group LOVES experiments...they are fascinated with things that "change.") Each child will discover what makes this season so unique...and fun! Then we're off to talk about polar animals. Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. Watch out for all that glittery artwork! During the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. Yes, we will don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to the rolling of "dinosaur eggs" to create a colorful painting, the excitement runs high. This unit is always a favorite.

FYI: Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 15th, and Thursday, January 16th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for about 15 minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, I will place a sign-up sheet on our table for you to make your choice of conference time. Also please 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 please don't forget to send in those hats and mittens every Providence day. And lastly, please get out those beautiful new 2014 calendars and mark down the days that we will NOT be in school during January...the 20th(MLK Day), the 30th and 31st ...both FCPS holidays. PNS Open House will take place on Wednesday, January 22nd – but we will be in session and having a normal school day.

There will be a couple of classroom management changes during this month. The sign-in board and shapes have been retired for this year.

There will be a new system of welcoming the children to our classroom. 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 chartboard and respond to the question on the chart by moving their name. Then during our circletime, we will look at our answers to the daily question. This activity serves two purposes...the students must recognize their names to "vote" and then each child must make an individual decision about a specific question. I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time first thing in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the 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. It is one more way for this 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 each 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/her self when leaving home. Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. Zippering is another very age appropriate skill that we will also continue to encourage. Also please allow your kidlet to walk in wearing their packback and carrying their snackbox. It's just one more way to be a little more independent in a school setting. They all love being "big kids!"

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters I(1/6), D(1/13), and W(1/27). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are really improving. And they are having lots of FUN doing it!

WOW...what a month! If you have any questions or concerns concerning your child or my program, please call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is and how his/her skills are developing. Stay tuned...

Jane Millward

January... a month that usually has me longing for warmth and a beach somewhere. Whatever the weather might be outside though, in the 4s room we'll be having fun all month long.

The first week back from break, we'll be headed out of town and off this planet, **Out in Space**. Scientific inquiries and our imaginations will be exercised this week. We'll be discussing gravity- can something exist even if we don't see it? We'll also be doing some creative writing as we think up some great space adventures. Counting planets and stars will also be part of the fun.

The week of January 14, we're talking **Winter Fun**. How do we have fun in the cold and snow? What do we do to keep warm? How are we like the migrating, hibernating, active animals we discussed last month? We'll sequence snowy activities, do some "cold" projects and hopefully make some animal observations after we create some bird feeders to hang outside.

The week of Jan 21 starts our two week focus on **Dinosaurs**. 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.

Keep sending in those hats, warm coats and fuzzy mittens. We do try to go outside most days and your children are getting very independent at putting on their own coats, hats and gloves. We're remembering to ask a friend to help us zip *before* asking a grown-up and the children love 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 the "small group activity rotation" we'll be starting once a week in January as well as 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.

Ms. Ryan



REMINDER

The second half of your materials fee is due with January tuition – see the tuition payment schedule or tuition invoice (available on our website) for amounts.

SUMMER CAMP

PNS offers an optional summer camp program following the regular school year. This year, we are offering one 3-week session from Tuesday, May 27th – Friday, June 13th. The hours are 9:30 – 12:30 with no option for lunch bunch. More details including tuition amounts will be sent via email soon.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

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

Wonderful Wednesday

Last month we were snowed out of enrichment but we have 2 exciting shows scheduled in January. On January 8th, 11:30 a.m., we will have the exciting musical and educational styling of Groovy Nate (<http://www.groovynate.com>). Twos, CDO and siblings are encouraged to join us with a grown up in the big room for this amazing show. On January 22nd, 11:30, we welcome back Kaydee Puppets for a show. Again, CDO, twos and siblings are encouraged to join us!

Wishing all a Wonderful New Year,

Aimee Emmerich

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 two. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- We will need volunteers to bring items for the Dr. Ciardi luncheon on Wed Jan 8.
- We will also need lunch bunch volunteers for Wed Jan 8 so the staff may attend the luncheon.
- Parents may attend board meeting on Mon January 13 for one volunteer hour.
- We will need volunteers to give tours and help with other duties at Open House on Wed Jan 22. Please see Kyle Durbin if you would like to help.
- We also need volunteers to help with the art show to prep the art, to help set up on Jan. 30, take down on Feb 27.

Please contact the VP Admin if you are able to help with any of this at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year and should have completed 4 by the end of December. Each cooping parent is required to complete 4 parent education hours per year. Volunteer hours are not the same as parent education hours. Being up to date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to Natalie Gray, VP Admin.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Gray, VP Admin. vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

FUNDRAISING

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our Barnes & Noble fundraiser. We raised \$616.84 for PNS this year! Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped with Holiday Shop. Look for upcoming info about local restaurant nights and House of Bounce in March.

Thank you for your support!

Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

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,
Elizabeth Carroll
newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee for all of the hard work they put into this year's Holiday Shop, especially to Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson for organizing and leading the event. Thank you to everyone who helped with Holiday Shop: Bridget and Matt Benov, Paul Erickson, Carisa and Marbin Pineda, Mandi Felici, Ashley Morgenthaler, Carol Ann Forrest, Elizabeth Carroll, Rosalie Hallmark, Betty Wang, Melissa and John Ahern, Kyle Durbin, Leah Fogarty, Irma Rugar, Meredyth Havasy, Jennifer Farrell, Maliha Ahmad, Britt Estabrooks, Lori Thomas, Alex Hume, and Jessie Auten. A huge thanks to Lauren Wilburn for bringing her dad to be Santa. Thank you to Pep Bauman for being Santa. Another huge thanks to Paula Rudnicka for the awesome family and Santa pictures.

Thank you to Holly Powers for organizing this year's holiday party and to the Millward family for hosting. It was a fun one!

Thanks to Kyle Durbin for arranging the Littlest Tree project and food drive and a huge thanks to all who donated.

Thank you to the Class Reps: Lindsay Roehner, Lauren Wilburn, Britt Estabrooks, Mara Surridge, and Lauren Etzler for organizing the class gifts for teachers and aides and also for working on the spring co-op schedules and finishing them early!

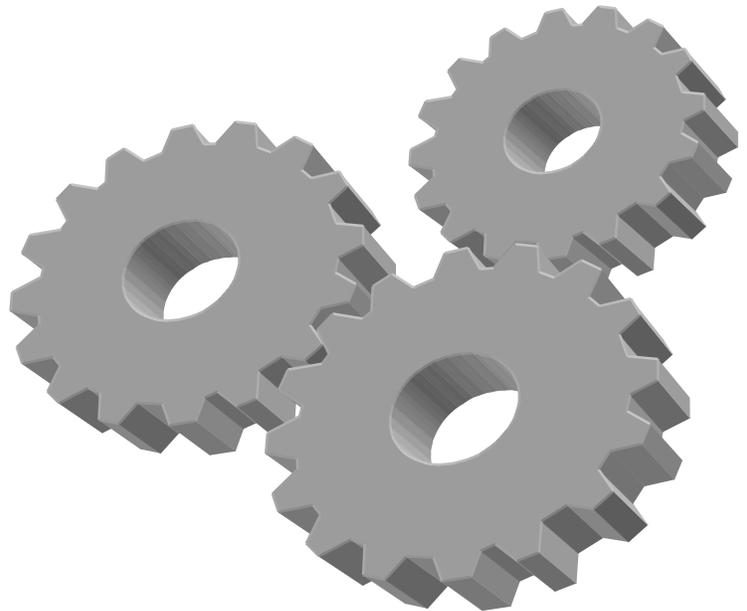
Thank you to Kelley Raich, Kyle Durbin, Britt Estabrooks, Allison Hagner, and Jane Millward for serving on the tuition committee.

Thank you to Anja Wright and Mara Surridge for volunteering to serve as summer school co-directors.

Thank you to the maintenance committee and all the volunteers who helped during our last clean-up day: Rob Moss, Carolyn Ericson, Doug Ericson, Simonette de la Torre, Holly Powers, Charles Havasy, Naveen Adusumilli, Rick Brown, Michael Vish, Jorge Porrata,

Rosemary Kahn, Kelly Volciak and Cynthia Zhao.

A special thank you to our aides: Phyllis Bruyette, Fatema Kanchan, Emmy Cade, and Janet Mays who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.



JANUARY 2014

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
			1 Tuition Due	2	3	4
5 <i>National Bird Day</i>	6 School Resumes	7	8 <i>Bubble Bath Day</i>	9	10	11
12	13 Board Meeting 7:30pm	14 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	15 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	16 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	17 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 <i>Squirrel Appreciation Day</i>	22 <i>PNS OPEN HOUSE</i>	23	24	25 <i>Opposite Day</i>
26	27 <i>Chocolate Cake Day</i> 	28	29	30 NO SCHOOL FCPS HOLIDAY	31 NO SCHOOL FCPS HOLIDAY	