

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Kelly...



Mark your Calendar

Friday November 1st
Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

November 4th & 5th
FCPS Holiday
NO SCHOOL

November 11th thru 12th
CDO and 2s
Parent Teacher Conferences

Monday November 11th
November Board Meeting
7:30pm

Saturday November 23rd
Barnes and Noble Fundraiser
Schedule TBD

Tuesday November 26th
Thanksgiving Luncheon 3/4s & 4s

November 28th & 29th
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Saturday December 7th
PNS Holiday Shop
10am-1pm

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



October seems to have flown by. I hope all the kids enjoyed their chance to dress up and show off their Halloween costumes to their friends. I know I enjoyed seeing all the creative (and cute) costumes! We've had some beautiful weather, and we've made many wonderful memories at PNS. There will be lots of excitement in the coming weeks as we enter into the busy holiday season.

Please mark your calendars for these important dates. School is closed on November 4th and 5th due to FCPS teacher work days. Our monthly board meeting will be held in the Big Room at school on November 11th. We have one of our biggest fundraisers of the year on Saturday, November 23rd at Barnes and Noble. Bring the kids out for a morning of fun which will include story times, sing-alongs and more. Finally, remember that school is closed on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

A sneak peek into December reveals the PNS Holiday Shop on December 7th. This is a fantastic and fun event for the children to buy presents for Mom, Dad, Grandparents, etc. It's also a great way to earn some volunteer hours. Our fundraising committee works incredibly hard on this event, but they will need your help. Please contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson if you can give some of your time, any amount would be appreciated.

November is traditionally a time to give thanks. At Providence, we have a lot to be thankful for this month. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all PNS families. Each of you adds something unique to your child's classroom experience and to our school overall. The energy, time, hard work, and enthusiasm PNS parents give to the school never ceases to amaze me. I am grateful for your friendship and the chance to share our children's preschool years.

Warm wishes to all for a wonderful, loving, and safe Thanksgiving!

Kelly

CDO & 2's

Brrr! It's time to get out the jackets and sweaters, because there's a chill in the air! It's also a time for being thankful and, fortunately, we have plenty to be thankful for this month, from those warm clothes to our food, homes, and families.

We'll spend the first two weeks of November focusing on food and the kitchen. We'll observe the many colors of fruits and vegetables, and practice sorting by color. We'll do some pretend cooking and grocery shopping, create art with real vegetables, and make music with kitchen utensils.

The following week, we will talk about our homes and families; we'll use blocks to build, dollhouses to pretend, and we'll read, sing and create art about our houses and the people who live in them.

These topics, of course, lead us up to the main event: Thanksgiving! We'll have Thanksgiving-themed crafts, dress-ups, and stories. In the last short week of November we'll learn about being thankful and saying "thank you," and then head off to Thanksgiving break ready for food, family, homes, and thanks.

Please note that the schedule is a bit wild this month, with November 4th and 5th off due to the FCPS schedule and the Thanksgiving holiday on the 28th and 29th. We also have our first Parent-Teacher conferences scheduled on the 11th (for CDO) and 12th (for 2s), during which we will have a chance to discuss your child's individual experience in class and any questions or concerns you might have.

There are many things for which I am thankful... and working with your wonderful children in this caring school community is one of them!

Ms. Auten

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Parents, what was your first/favorite Halloween costume, or dress-up as a kid?

Personally I was a bride for 3 years because my doll had a matching outfit. But here are two stories I couldn't choose between, they were too cute.

- Britt Estabrooks "My first favorite costume was a brown bear my mom had made for me. We went to the fabric store to pick out the material together. I had a stuffed brown bear, booie, that went everywhere with me. So I was inspired to be a bear."
- Elizabeth Claeys "My favorite was dressing as an Eskimo. I grew up in Colorado and it was always cold on Halloween, and usually snowing also. It was quite disappointing to have to wear a coat over whatever fun costume you had chosen so that no one could really see it. But one year, I actually wore a real Eskimo outfit - fur lined parka and hood, pants, and lovely fur and leather boots. My mother and her siblings had lived in Alaska for awhile as kids and one of my aunts had acquired this authentic Eskimo suit that happened to be just my size. It was the best Halloween - not only was I cozy and warm but everyone could actually see my costume!"

Thank you for all the responses, December's question is: **What is your favorite holiday food?**

The holiday season is here! It seems like it starts with Halloween and continues nonstop right through New Year's Day. Everybody's getting excited about travel plans and visits, feasting and football. It's hard to tell if we're shivering from excitement or just the colder weather.

We'll do our best to stay focused on our plans for the month. Our first theme is Night Animals. There may be some bats left over from Halloween, along with owls and opossums. On Wednesday, the 6th, there is a Healthy Eating enrichment activity and the following week will be all about Food. The Big Room will sprout a grocery store and we can "play with our food" at the art table. We'll also try our hand at making some applesauce. Then we will use our senses to explore our surroundings. The I Spy game, my "Feely Box", and recordings of familiar sounds will test some of those senses. In anticipation of our next holiday we will try to think of things we are thankful for. This can start some very interesting conversations!!

I'm pleased to say that everyone caught right on to the job system and it's apparently very exciting to check in each morning and discover whether you have a job or a day off.

A few reminders:

November 1 is our Picture Day, so pick out the perfect outfit, schedule those haircuts and send them in ready to smile! We won't have any messy projects that day, so the nice clothes will be relatively safe.

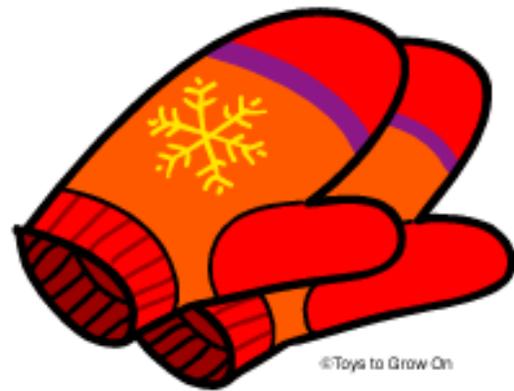
The fabulous Barnes and Noble Fundraiser is on November 23rd. It's a great way to support our school, maybe get some volunteer hours and just

have lots of fun. The holidays are just around the corner and books make great gifts for everyone.

Please check the spare clothes basket in the classroom to make sure that there are seasonally appropriate clothes in there and that any items that have been used lately have been replaced. Also, on those really cold days, remember to send hats and mittens for our playground time.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I can definitely say that I am thankful to be spending time with such a great bunch of kids and with such dedicated and helpful parents. You all make it fun to come to school!

Miss Susan



©Toys to Grow On

Thankful...that's how I feel right now. I am thankful that your children are healthy, and happy, and ready to share the wonderful month of November (or YESvember as we sometimes call it in our class!) with me. This month at P.N.S. is filled with learning about the first Thanksgiving and the importance of sharing with others. Our weeks will be crammed full of fun as we talk about Autumn(11/6), food(11/11), Thanksgiving(11/18), and The Feast(11/25). My Monday group will be looking at the letters L, T, and A during the month.

Our traditional Providence Thanksgiving feast will take place on Tuesday, November 26th and we will be celebrating with the Fours' class. We will all be doing some of the food preparation and cooking in addition to the feasting. I promise there will something for everyone to eat at our feast! Although space does not allow us to invite parents to eat with us, a few extra hands to help with final details would be greatly appreciated. I will be posting a sign-up sheet later in the month listing some foods that will be needed...if anyone can help, that would be terrific! Lunch Bunch will be Fun Bunch that day...no lunch will be necessary!

Important dates for November: No school on the 4th and 5th (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 28th (Thanksgiving). Our field trip for this month will take place mid-month when we go "behind the scenes" for a special tour of the Fair Lakes' Whole Foods store on Tuesday, November 19th. (It is definitely one of my favorite field trips for this age group!) Details will follow soon!

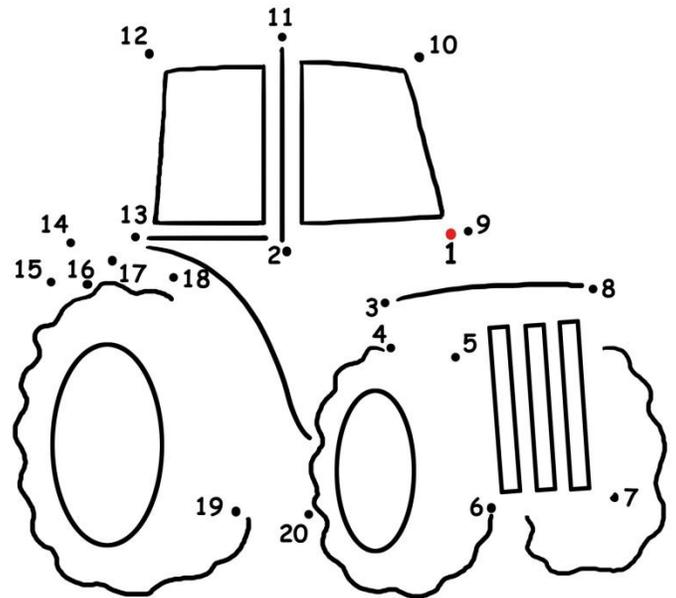
Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in my "emergency basket"...and to label all those hats and mittens that we will soon be needing when we go outside to the playground. Star of the Day is a great success – I think being line leader is the favorite part of the job. Show 'n Tell is also going well. I really appreciate your effort when you encourage your Star to bring something that relates to the topic of the week and

that fits into the "sharing can" also! The kids are also starting to really ask good questions of the Star relating to his/her special item. ☺

I am having a great time with your kids! This group is really "working" on working together during Open Centertime...the imaginative and cooperative play is so much fun to watch! We have come a long way just since September! Building with blocks (or whatever is on the rug) seems to be a real favorite of both boys and girls. Towers are the favorite structure of choice. And transitions continue to amaze me...usually everyone listens to the directions and follows them to a "T". (It warms this teacher's heart!) Lastly, I hope you are enjoying your co-op days as much as I enjoy having you with me!

Happy Turkey Day to all!

Jane Millward



In our house, November feels like a month that revolves around food, family and feasts (and quite a bit of football too!). Of course, we also spend a lot of time talking about all the things for which we are thankful. This is a great month to talk to our kids about doing for others, whether we are participating in Scouting for Food, donating to our church Food Pantry or cleaning out our toy closet to donate the toys we've outgrown. I think my kids are more thankful for what they have when they realize that not everyone has as much. I encourage you to spend some time talking to your children about these same ideas and letting them participate in a meaningful way in helping others.

In our class at PNS we will also spend the month talking about food, family and feasts, as well as helping others and being thankful. The week of November 6 we will spend Wednesday and Thursday discussing how **Manners** help us consider other people's feelings before our *Field Trip to Whole Foods on November 8*. We will be reviewing the Letters S, H, F & P. The week of November 12, we will be focusing on **Food**. We'll look at how to create a healthy plate and spend time talking about fruits, vegetables, soup (where all the parts of a healthy plate can come together) and desserts. We'll look at liquids and solids, creating solutions and how temperature changes our ingredients. The Letter of the Week will be L. The week of November 19, we will talk about the **Thanksgiving Story**. We'll talk about the Pilgrims who traveled far from home, had a hard time growing and finding food and the Indians who helped them. We'll emphasize helping others and being thankful for what we have. The Letter of the Week will be T. Finally, the very short week of November 26 (our class is only at school on Tuesday and Wednesday) is all about the **Thanksgiving Feast**. We will prepare and eat a Thanksgiving meal with the 3/4s class on Tuesday, November 24. More information and a sign-up

sheet will be out toward the end of the month regarding our feast. We will also share about the foods and family we will be enjoying over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Important upcoming dates to remember:

November 1 Picture Day, **November 5** No School, **November 8** Field Trip to Whole Foods, **November 28 & November 29** No School.

With the coming cool weather, please remember to switch out your child's Change of Clothes with long sleeves and pants. Also, please label your child's coat, mittens and hat with his/her name.

I am so very thankful for our wonderful class of friends, the other teachers and aides at PNS, and the wonderful parents who make our class and our cooperative nursery school such a special place. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work at PNS each day. Thank you!

Ms. Ryan



CLASS PHOTO SITES

We are pleased to see so many of you are utilizing our class photo sites on Shutterfly. The pictures you've been sharing offer so many wonderful glimpses of day-to-day activities at PNS. In May we will order class photo books using your pictures so keep uploading them! If you are interested in helping to create those photo books please see your Class Representative. One quick reminder about our Shutterfly pages, these sites are only to be used by PNS parents. They cannot be shared with members of your extended families or friends. For the safety and privacy of our students we ask that you not give out any information about our class pages.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

It's time for the annual PNS holiday food drive! All donations are to support the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry which supplies food goods to members of our community regardless of religious affiliation. The collection boxes will be in both the main and back hallways where families can leave donations of canned and boxed goods. We will take the boxes upstairs as they fill up. The kids love to help with this and learn the importance of giving to those less fortunate. Stay tuned to your email for more details 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

The month of November is the month of Thanksgiving. The weeks leading up we prepare menus and fantasize about the good food. It is the time we reflect on giving

thanks; we encourage our children to explore the things for which they are thankful. This month, Wonderful Wednesday enrichment will focus on just these things.

On 11/6 at 11:30 we will have a presentation by FCPS on Healthy Eating. CDO, twos and siblings are welcome to join us for this fun presentation.

On 11/13 we will have a card making extravaganza to make Christmas cards for soldiers to round out the "thankful" piece of the month. I could use a couple parents willing to help me set up the stations and organize the activities ahead of time. If you are willing to help me out with this activity, please email me at aimee.autism@gmail.com to get involved. I would be very thankful for some creative help on this project!

Wishing you and your families a Wonderful Holiday,

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 hope that you are able to complete half of your hours during the first half of the school year. Here are some ideas to help you get those hours in before winter break!

- Wednesday, Nov 6th - Lunch Bunch sub needed from 12:30 – 1:30.
- Monday, November 11th – Subs needed in the CDO class during parent/teacher conferences.
- November 23rd – Volunteers needed to help with Barnes and Noble Day.
- December 6th & 7th – Volunteers needed to help with Holiday Shop.
- Check in with Kyle Durbin, our VP of Enrollment, she needs help with preparations for a preschool fair: creating a side show, posters, labels, etc. These would be great for completing at home.
- Check in with Rob and Mary Ellen Moss, our maintenance chairs. There are plenty of projects that need to be done aside from our scheduled clean-up and maintenance days. They will especially need help with raking the leaves off the playground over the next few weeks.
- Attend a board meeting – these are held the second Monday of each month in the Big Room.

Reminder: Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to Natalie Gray, VP Admin.

If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact Natalie Gray at graynh@verizon.net

FUNDRAISING

Plan to join us on Saturday, November 23rd at the Fairfax Barnes & Noble. Starting at 10:00 in the morning, we will have crafts, storytimes, and a book signing. Author Jason Carter Eaton will be signing copies of his new book, "How to Train Your Train" from 10 until 2. The book is filled with awesome illustrations by John Rocco and a signed copy would make a terrific holiday gift for any young child.

We will distribute flyers with our PNS bookfair code before the event, but PNS should get credit if you mention us when you make a purchase at any register including the Starbucks Cafe. Also, we will be eligible for credit from online sales or additional sales in the store for 5 days after our event so please spread the word to friends and family!

We are still accepting forms for the Holiday Shop. Holiday Shop is a fun Saturday morning (December 7th) when the children can shop for small presents for family members with the help of other adults. We also have snacks, crafts, and family photo time! Santa will only make an appearance if we can get a volunteer to wear the suit for a couple of hours. We need lots of volunteers to make this happen - for set-up on Friday night and to shop with the kids on the Saturday. Please let us know if you can help us out.

As always, contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson with any questions. Thanks for supporting PNS!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the December Newsletter please submit it by November 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 elizabethcarroll@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Anja Wright for subbing in lunch bunch during the October teacher luncheon.

Thank you to Aimee Emmerich, Marbin Pineda, Thao Hoang, Anja Wright, and Nickie Yi for subbing during parent/teacher brunches.

Thank you to Maliha Ahmad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills and making sure our first-aid kits are well-stocked.

Thank you to our field trip organizers – Holly Powers (3s), CarolAnn Forrest (3/4s), and Melissa Ahern (4s) for setting up the first few field trips of the year.

Thank you to all who participated in our Ah Love Oil, Matchbox Swap, and Disney On Ice fundraisers.

Thank you to Bridget Benov and Feld Entertainment for the generous donation of Disney On Ice tickets.

Thank you to for all who donated snacks for our Matchbox Swap and helped with the event Aimee Emmerich, Betty Wang, Rosalie Hallmark, & Kristen Rule.

Thank you to Anja Wright and Jennifer Farrell for making the colorful batches of playdoh our children have been enjoying each week.

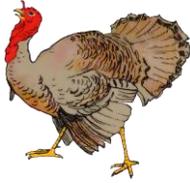
Thank you to Rob Moss for setting up the playground maintenance schedule and for taking the time to install our fire alarm covers and replacing the padding on our sign-in tables.

Thank you to Rob Moss (maintenance chair), Rick Brown (maintenance committee) Lori Thomas, Greg Thomas, Kristen Browning, Maliha Ahmad, Henry Wright, Rosalie Hallmark, Carolyn Ericson for a successful maintenance day.

A special thank you to our incredible teaching staff for all they do for our children each day: Jane Millward, Susan Patton, Ryan Bianchetti, Jessie Auten, Fatema Kanchan, Phyllis Bruyette, Emmy Cade, Janet Mays, and Allison Hagner.

Most importantly, thank you to ALL of our PNS parents. It is the hard work and dedication of our parents that make our school so special!

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1 Tuition Due School Pictures CDO, 3s, & 4s	2
3 <i>National Sandwich Day</i>	4 NO SCHOOL	5 NO SCHOOL	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences- CDO Board Meeting 7:30pm</i>	12 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences- 2s</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>National Button Day</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Barnes and Noble Fundraiser!
24	25	26 Thanksgiving Luncheon- 3/4s&4s	27	28 NO SCHOOL <i>Thanksgiving</i>	29 NO SCHOOL	30