

# The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 2

October 2012

## *A Letter from Kelly...*

The September anxieties have diminished and everyone did a great job getting school off to a successful start. THANK YOU! I know I am not alone when I say that October is one of my favorite months. It is time to really settle in and have fun at PNS. Your children (and you too hopefully) are going to enjoy the next few weeks of school – we've got lots of exciting activities planned!

October is fire-safety month and a great reminder of our everyday dedication to the health and safety of our children. Safety and parent involvement are two cornerstones of PNS, and we are constantly striving for both. I hope you will take a moment to review the guidelines regarding emergencies in the black packet you received at Back to School Night. By working together, we will make PNS not just a fun environment for our kids, but a safe one as well.

There are several upcoming opportunities to get involved with your child's school as you get a head start on your parent education and volunteer hour requirements. Our first parent/teacher brunches of the school year will be held this month. Please see the school calendar for dates and look for emails from your child's teacher or class rep with details. The brunches are a fun, casual way to get to know other parents in your class as well as to earn 30 minutes of parent education credit.

October 20<sup>th</sup> is our second clean-up/maintenance day of the school year. There is plenty to do both inside and outside the school to keep it in the best shape possible for our kids. If you've already fulfilled your requirement for the school year, please feel free to come and help out anyway. You can earn some volunteer hours, and believe it or not, our clean-up days can actually be fun!

Let's not forget that October means Halloween, so get those costumes ready and be prepared for crafts, treats, field trips, and celebrations to round out the busy month.



Of course, the weather is still nice enough to spend time outdoors. We love our playground because it is fully shaded on hot, sunny days. But remember that autumn brings an extra chill to the air under all those trees. Be sure to send your child to school with a jacket (labeled with his or her name) and closed-toed shoes!

Finally, please note there is no school on October 8 (Columbus Day) or October 17<sup>th</sup> (Teacher PACT Conference). Our October board meeting will still be held the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Big Room. We would love to see you there.

Have a great October and a Happy Halloween!

*-Kelly*



### **PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL**

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Fairfax, VA 20031  
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### **Mark your Calendar**

#### **Columbus Day –** **NO SCHOOL &** **Board Meeting**

7:30 pm  
Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

#### **Parent Brunches**

9:30-10:30 am on :  
Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> - 2s  
Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> -3s  
Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> -3/4s  
Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> -4s  
Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - CDO

#### **Cleaning & Maint. Day**

8:30 am - 11:30 pm  
Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

#### **PACT Conference –** **NO SCHOOL &** **Matchbox Swap Fundraiser**

10:00 am – 11:30 am  
Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **Halloween Parade**

9:30 am – 10:00 am  
Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>  
2s & 3/4s  
Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
3s, 4s, CDO

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## CDO & 2s

All of my “little pumpkins” are adjusting quite well to school.

We had a few tears at first, but now everyone’s more comfortable. The children’s favorite place is the Big Room, where they can explore and play in our different centers. The water table, play dough and sand box have been big hits as well. The children have also enjoyed watching our gerbil- Harry. It is truly amazing how quickly the kids have learned our daily routines. We already clean up like pros and have mastered our snack routine. We are working hard on lining up, taking turns and sharing toys.

Of course all the kids love Obie, Mrs B’s puppet. Obie often provides our circle activities by leaving small surprises or jobs for the class. Ironically, Obie is afraid of children. He’ll only come out of his Cheerios box if the children sit quietly. As a result, both classes are sitting beautifully for circle.

During the first week of October we’ll be studying fire safety and the color red. We’ll set up the room with fire trucks and a fire station. Fire fighter jackets, hats and boots will be out in the big room. We’ll talk about how firefighters always help us. We’ll practice what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.



We will talk about feelings the week of October 8th. At the art table we’ll make happy, sad, mad and surprised faces. We’ll ask Obie what he does when he feels sad. The puppet theatre will be in our classroom as we act out different emotions.

During the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>, we’ll talk about family and home. We’ll get out the toy cars and take some pretend trips to visit grandparents and cousins.

We’ll build small houses with popsicle sticks. Obi, our class puppet, has his cousin Eukie visiting this week. Obi and Eukie are learning to share and take turns. Hopefully by watching the puppets and helping them work out some disputes, the students will learn to say, “Can I have that next” and “Would you like to trade?”. Please help your child practice these and other sharing phrases at home. Also have your child practice sharing and taking turns with you.



Then for two weeks we will talk about the farm! This is a great time to visit local farms to see the harvest, the pumpkin patch and a corn maze. My favorite is Frying Pan Park. In school the art table will reflect our theme as we make sheep with clothespin legs and try tractor painting. During circle time we’ll read the Big Red Barn and sing Old McDonald. We’ll also make a special bulletin board with our favorite farm animals.

Please plan to attend our class brunch on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 for the 2s class and on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 for the CDO class. Younger siblings are welcome to join us for the brunch. I’ll have information on what’s happening at school as well as information on language development.

We’ll end October with Halloween. I emphasize the fun and silliness of Halloween and down play the scary stuff. The 2s class will have a Halloween parade on October 25<sup>th</sup> with the 3/4s. CDO will have a parade on October 26<sup>th</sup> with the 3s and 4s. Parents and siblings are welcome and encouraged to stay for the parade. Please leave masks at home. Most young children do better when familiar faces are exposed.

*Mrs. B*

**3s**

We've raced our way through September and have already learned a lot in the process. We know our new friends' names, where our cubbies are, how to check in each morning, who Cleo is, that pea gravel should stay on the ground, that we have to clean up our things after snack time, that we talk about the weather every day and so much more!

Now that we know all that, it's time to add a little more excitement to our days. This month we will start doing Daily Jobs. Each morning there will be a job symbol attached to some of the check-in symbols. Some days there will be a job, some days there won't. They rotate through the class. It's very exciting to see which job you get.

There are a few important dates to put on your calendars this month. On Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, we grownups get to spend an hour together chatting and brunching for some parent education credit. Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, is the tentative date of our first field trip. It will be at Burke Nursery where we'll take a big wagon ride, climb and slide and roll in the play area and visit the "pumpkin patch" on our way out. Then comes one of our favorite things: Our own Halloween costume show. Make sure to have your cameras ready as we show off our clever Halloween outfits first thing Friday morning, on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

As if all of that wasn't enough, we also have our monthly themes to concentrate on. The first is Fire Safety. We had a visit from the firefighters last month to get us interested in this topic. We'll practice "Stop, Drop and Roll" and learn what to do if we find matches where they shouldn't be. The next two short weeks will be devoted to Apples and Pumpkins. Finally, after we have heard many times who's going to be what for Halloween, it's almost here! Pumpkins and ghosties will inhabit the school in anticipation of the big night.



I hope everyone is having as much fun at school as I am. We're off to a wonderful start and I'm looking forward to some great adventures with this class.

*Miss Susan*

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## Reminders

Holiday shopping forms were included in your Back To School Night packets. Please remember to turn them in early to the fundraising committee so our "elves" can get busy shopping!

All parents who are dropping off or picking up more than one child are asked to walk around the outside of the building. This goes for taking children to use the bathroom before or after school as well (unless it's an emergency, of course!). Teachers are busy trying to greet/say good-bye to students and parents, and having extra people in and out of the Big Room can be very distracting.



It is important to get teacher approval before planning to drop your child in for lunch bunch. Lunch Bunch is FULL on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Drop-ins will not be permitted those days.

3/4s

I just love fall...and all those sights and sounds of autumn that the month of October brings. Here at PNS, we'll do lots of discussing, experimenting, and playing with autumn "stuff"...and these seasonal finds will inspire many language, math, science, and music activities in our class room.

October 1<sup>st</sup> brings us to the beginning of our fire safety unit. We will be learning lots of interesting facts about fire fighters and their equipment. Now that we've met "real live" fire fighters from Engine Company 23, thanks to our Wonderful Wednesday program, our discussions will be very lively, I'm sure. After all, we have become experts in ladders, hoses, and all sorts of other fire fighting equipment! We'll also hold several "stop, drop, and roll" practice sessions. Dinner conversations should be exciting this week!

Starting on October 9<sup>th</sup> will be a week filled with lots of fun learning about our 5 senses...our table activities will certainly be touchy and smelly and filled with good sights. (Don't forget that there is no school on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in observation of Columbus Day.)

Next we will talk about manners and feelings during the week of October 15<sup>h</sup>. I have several age appropriate books that we will read during circletime that will lead us into some "polite" discussions. Our table time activities will offer different opportunities to work co-operatively and share "equipment."

Our month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween, and we'll work up to the big day by spending some time learning about pumpkins and spiders. **Our parade this year will be on Thursday, October 25th.** Please send your child to school in his/her costume on that day. We will be parading with the 2s' class, so that everyone can admire all of the costumes (please remember no masks or really scary outfits...thanks!). After the parade (which you are cordially invited to attend), the kids will change from their costumes and we'll return to our "normal" day. (If anyone would like to volunteer to provide a special treat on the "real" Halloween (Wednesday, 10/31), please let me know...otherwise I will come up with something special for that day. It's too "BIG" to let it go by unnoticed!

Per your overwhelming support, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to the Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch. The exact date will follow as soon as Mary has it all firmed up. I look forward to this trip every year! We'll take a hayride, play in the straw mazes, swing on the rope swings, and drink



apple cider at snack time. It's a wonderful day to be a kid...big or little! Plan on coming with us – and staying out there longer with your child, if you can! Siblings are welcome! There is more than enough to do for the day...I wish I could stay, but I need to get back for Lunch Bunch duty.

October signals the start of my "Star of the Day" program.



I will send home a calendar at the beginning of each month which assigns each child "their" day...it's their time to shine. Please allow the child to bring in one special item to Show 'n Tell on that day. I would like the item to relate to the weekly theme...and I'm counting on you to encourage appropriate

choices. The item should be delivered in their backpack and placed in the "Show 'n Tell" red can that "lives" on the top shelf of our cubbies. So that means that the chosen treasure needs to fit in the can! The special item will be returned promptly to the backpack after its presentation... and the can will be replace on the shelf for the next day's Star. The Star of the Day will also be my special helper... from line leader to calendar person...it is "their" day.

The Monday Gang (the 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month. We'll take a look at one letter at a time. The lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences developmentally appropriate for your four year old. The letter will be listed on your calendars along with the weekly themes.

So we're off and running and having a great time! We had such a smooth beginning to the year that September flew by. And we are so lucky to have Miss Ryan and Miss Emmy with us at different times during the week, to give me "more hands on deck" help when I need it most.

October is bound to be even more fun. Remember to mark your calendars that there is no school on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>...we teachers will be at our PACT conference that day.

But you all can come to PNS and participate in the Matchbox car swap that is planned for that day...what FUN!!! The kids always love this event!

Here's to a month that's packed with colorful experiences for everyone!!!

*Jane*

4s

School is in full swing and my busy 4's are now comfortable in their routines and making new preschool friends.

During October, one of my favorite months of the year, we will learn about Fire Safety, Manners, our Senses and have fun celebrating Halloween.

During the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, we will learn about the "Hot" Topic of Fire Safety. We will make tissue paper flames, paint on aluminum foil and make an edible fire truck. We will also have fun practicing the stop-drop and roll technique.

Manners is our unit of study Oct 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. I will be listening for the words Please and Thank You.

October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>st</sup> is a week of Senses. We will be seeing, hearing, touching and tasting our way through the week.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> is Halloween. We will have some Monstrous fun this week making a pumpkin vine by stamping with a carrot. On Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>, come to school wearing your costume. We will have a short parade at 9:30. Mom's this is a great photo opportunity.



October 4<sup>th</sup> starts our "special student" program. The special student of the day will be our line leader, weather watcher and calendar helper. On his/her assigned day, he or she may bring in one item to share (show and tell) with the class. Jennifer will be sending a calendar at the start of every month listing your child's special day.

Also, October starts the introduction to the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. A variety of hands-on activities will be offered to help your child develop language, vocabulary and confidence.

Thank you, everyone. September was great. We are having tons of fun.

*Judy*



## Halloween at PNS

Probably the most exciting event at PNS this month is our annual Halloween "parade". Students and teachers alike will dress up to show off their costumes to family and friends. The parade for the 2s and 3/4s will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The CDO, 3s, and 4s classes will parade on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The school will be full of our kids' favorite animals, story book characters, princesses, and superheroes. All family members are welcome. Don't forget your camera!

As you and your child are deciding on a costume, we ask that you keep our youngest students in mind. Masks or mummy wraps are great for trick or treating but can be quite scary for little ones who don't understand it is one of their friends underneath. We encourage you and your children to be creative and inventive with their costumes, but please also be considerate of our preschool audience.



## Picture Days

Group and Individual school pictures for 2's and the 3/4's will be taken on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> while CDO, the 3's, and the 4's will be taken on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We will need one volunteer to help out with collecting picture envelopes for the first hour of each morning. We also need two volunteers each day to stay the entire morning to help with walking kids from their classes to get their pictures taken and back. If you can help, please contact Dawn Ahrens (dawnandbrandon@verizon.net) and let her know your availability.

## Wonderful Wednesdays Enrichment!

I hope everyone enjoyed the fire safety puppet show and truck visit. I know my little ones are setting imaginary fires and making fire truck forts with blankets and chairs and hoses out of toy snakes, and saving the day, day after day. It is fun watching their experiences in life spill into their fantasy lives-enriching, indeed.

For October we will be treated to "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" by Kaydee Puppets an old PNS favorite. The show will be Wednesday, October 24 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. CDO, Twos and siblings are welcome with parent supervision.  
-Aimee Emmerich



## Volunteer Opportunities

-We need volunteers to sub for teachers and co-oping parents for one hour during October Parent Brunches from 9:30-10:30am. Please let Jennifer Mack know if you are able to help out.

- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm for one volunteer hour

-Let Jennifer Mack know if you are attending the

October Maintenance Day on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:30. All families are required to attend one Maintenance Day per student enrolled. Why not get it out the way early?

## Fundraising



The Matchbox Swap will be on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 in the Big Room at school. Admission will be \$5 per child (parents free). Every kid should bring 2 cars to trade. Girls are welcome to come also! If anyone needs some cars to use, we will have extra. There will be snacks, crafts, games, and everyone will go home with 2 "new" cars!

-Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

## Thank You to:

- Alex Hume and Chris DiTeresi for doing such a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions.
- Michelle Danis for coordinating treats for Back-to-School Night and Co-op Training and to all of the families who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up.
- Laura Braceland, Rick Brown, and Sam Crowley for making some much needed repairs to our sofa in the Big Room.
- Jenn Truong for making the colorful batches of play doh our children have been enjoying each week and also for putting together the school's new cardboard blocks.
- Dawn Ahrens for putting together the class placemats, setting up the Shutterfly sites, and organizing our school picture days in November.
- Aimee Emmerich for arranging our enrichment activities for the year, starting with the fire department visit in September.
- Mara Surridge for assisting with photography and enrichment, taking lots of pictures, and making sure our events run smoothly.
- Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson for organizing our fundraisers for the first half of the year: apparel sales, Posh Pouches, Disney ticket sales, Matchbox swap, Barnes and Noble, and Holiday Shop. We are off to a great start!
- Bridget Benov and to Feld Entertainment for the Disney On Ice ticket donation. We sold all 60 tickets which raised \$1,800 for PNS. WOW!

# October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day <b>No School</b>  PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Meeting	9 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 2s Parents	10 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 3s Parents	11 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 3/4s Parents	12 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for 4s Parents	13
14	15 9:30-10:30 am Brunch for CDO Parents	16	17 PACT Conference <b>No School</b>  MatchBox Swap Fundraiser 10-11:30 am Big Room	18	19	20 Cleaning & Maint. Day 8:30-11:30 am
21	22	23	24 Enrichment: Kaydee Puppet Show 11:30 am Fellowship Hall	25 Halloween Parade 2s & 3/4s	26 Halloween Parade CDO, 3s, & 4s	27
28	29	30	31   Halloween	Nov. 1 Picture Day 2s, 3/4s	2 Picture Day CDO, 3s, 4s	