

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL  
9019 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE  
FAIRFAX, VA 20031  
www.previdencenurseryschool.com

# THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

## *A Letter from Kelly...*

Thanks to our wonderful teachers, aides, and PNS families, we have gotten off to a great start this school year. Hopefully by now, your little one is settling in and beginning to enjoy him or herself. If not, don't worry! Some children take longer than others to adjust to new things. My older son adjusted very well to preschool although he was a quiet observer for the first several weeks. My little guy, on the other hand, had a hard time saying goodbye to me his first year. He had to shed a few tears (and so did I), but now he couldn't be more excited about school. It may take some extra hugs from mom and dad combined with plenty of TLC from our teachers and aides, but it will get easier, and your child will soon love going to school!

October is filled with lots of fun things at PNS. Your children will enjoy plenty of stories, games, songs, and crafts to celebrate fall. For the parents, we have our class brunches the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

We have no school on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Our monthly board meeting will still be held on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and all are invited to attend. The agenda will be out soon. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have a matchbox swap fundraiser in the Big Room. This is a fun event for both boys and girls and a great way to spend a morning with no school.

Our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year will be held on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We can certainly use some extra help for this one. There will be lots of leaves to be raked from the playground, and it's a great time to rid the school of any lingering germs as we head into cold & flu season.

To end this busy month, every child will have a chance to put on a costume and wave to their friends and family during our annual Halloween parades. More details will be sent as Halloween approaches. In the meantime, if you are planning your child's costume, please keep our young preschool audience in mind. Nothing too scary for the little ones!

Once again, a huge thank you to all of you who have given your time to make our school run smoothly and successfully. Please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

I hope you have a wonderful start to fall. Winter and holidays will be here before we know it. Yikes!

*Kelly*



## Mark your Calendar

### October 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>

Brunch for Parents

9:30am-10:30am (see calendar for your child's specific class date).

This is not mandatory but attendance counts for a 1/2 adult education hour.

### Monday October, 14<sup>th</sup>

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

PNS Board Meeting 7:30pm

### Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>

PACT Conference

No School

Matchbox Swap Fundraiser

### Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>

Cleaning and Maintenance Day

8:30am-11:30am

### October 28<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup>

Halloween Parades 9:30am-10:30am

(see calendar for your child's specific class date)

### Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>

Picture Day for 2s & 3/4s

### Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>

Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to Elizabethcarroll@gmail.com by October 20<sup>th</sup> for November's issue.



## CDO & 2's

I am so proud of all of my new young friends! We've gotten off to a good start, and now our daily routine is starting to feel comfortable and familiar. We've learned about circles and colors, and about each other – one thing that I have learned is that we have quite a group of budding artists, dancers and musicians! We also know how to walk safely from one place to another with Ms. Auten leading our "train," clean up the toys when we hear the clean-up bell, and sit down together on our spots for Circle Time. So what's next?

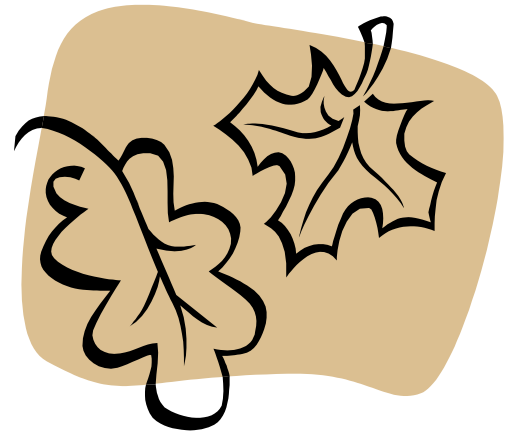
For the first two weeks in October, we'll be learning all about body parts. We'll talk about faces and look at some faces in fine art, practice pointing to our body parts and learn to dance The Hokey Pokey. We'll also read about visits to the doctor, get out the doctor kits for some pretend play, and try out all of the doctors' instruments.

Then we'll turn our attention to some highlights of the Fall season, starting with changes in the weather and falling leaves. We'll be going outside to make our own observations, so please be sure your child is dressed for the weather.

In the last week of October we'll have fun with the pumpkins and costumes of Halloween. Some Halloween traditions can be a little scary for our young friends – but not at preschool! We will avoid masks and scary costumes, and focus on friendly faces and costumes. Each class will have a parade to show off our costumes for parents.

I look forward to seeing parents at the class brunches on October 7<sup>th</sup> (for CDO) and October 8<sup>th</sup> (for the 2s), and to all of the fun activities ahead. Hooray for October!

Ms. Auten



### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What are you sending with your child as their first day of school snack? Will you send a little note from Mommy, or a sandwich cut in a fun shape?

- The majority of children got notes in their snack, and the most common snack item among responses was baby carrots.
- The most fun and unique response was from Aimee Emmerich: "I think I am going to print out a picture of their first days as 2s and 3s to remind them how far they've come."

Thank you for all the responses, November's question is:

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

The children have started to talk about what they are going to be for Halloween, so it must be October. Although we only had three weeks of school in September, we have learned a lot already. We know how to check in when we arrive at school, where the smocks are, to use good manners at snack time, that getting in a line to go somewhere is harder than it sounds and if you raise your hand during Show and Tell, you don't have to say "Me, me, me, pick me!!" At this rate, we're going to be smarter than ever by the end of the year!

For themes this month, we'll start with Fire Safety. We had a preview last month from the firefighters' puppets. Now we'll learn to stop, drop and roll and what firefighters look like when they're dressed to fight a fire. Next we will check out arms and legs, heads and feet when we talk about Body Parts and what we can do with them. Then we'll experiment with Magnets – those mysterious things that push and pull on themselves and some other objects. Apples and Pumpkins will be next theme. We'll try our hands at making applesauce and have a pumpkin hunt on the playground. Then it will FINALLY be Halloween with all the fun and craziness that goes along with it. Can't wait!

There are several special events and activities scheduled for October. Two Wonderful Wednesdays are coming up. The first is a Tae Kwon Do session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and then we'll be Mad Scientists on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, parents are invited to Brunch with the Teacher from 9:30 to 10:30. We'll munch and chat and you will earn a parent education hour. We will not have school on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Columbus Day. We've saved the best for last. On Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, our first field trip will be to the pumpkin patch at

Burke Nursery. We'll take a wagon ride, play on climbers and have a picnic snack. Everyone gets to pick out a pumpkin to take home and siblings are welcome. Our Halloween costume show will be on Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 in the Big Room. There will be great photo ops, so don't forget your cameras. (More about this later.)

This month we will start our classroom jobs. Each day half of the class will have a job picture on their check-in symbols. The job lasts all day and then will be assigned on a rotating basis to another child in the class. These jobs are a big part of our day and some of them are highly coveted. You'll discover which ones!

We're off to a great start this year. Thanks for all your help so far. I couldn't do this job without all of you.

Miss Susan



Listen...can you hear that? Crunch, crunch, crunch. It's the sound of happy three and four year olds marching to the playground through tons of fallen leaves. Yes, it is autumn...my favorite season! There are all those signs of autumn outside...colorful leaves, acorns, pumpkins, cornstalks, harvest moons, and spider webs. What fun!!!

September 30th brings us to the beginning of our fire safety unit. We will be learning lots of interesting facts about fire fighters and their equipment. We'll also hold several "stop, drop, and roll" practice sessions. Hopefully our neighborhood Engine Company 23 will stop by to show us their truck and fire equipment during this week also!

Starting on October 7<sup>th</sup>, our week will be 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 14<sup>th</sup> in observation of Columbus Day or on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> when the PNS staff will be attending the PACT conference. Don't forget the Matchbox Car swap that morning, though!) We will talk about manners and feelings on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. I have several age appropriate books that we will read during circletime that will lead us into some "polite" discussions. ☺ Seasons of the year will be our topic during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Stand by to have your kid explain how one season follows another to make our year go by. Our song will be "There are four seasons in the year, in the year, in the year...there are four seasons in the year...winter, spring, summer, and fall!"

The month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween...exciting times at PNS! Our celebration this year will be on Wednesday, October 30th. Please send your child to school in his/her costume on that day. We will be parading

with the 3s' and 4s classes, so that everyone can admire everyone's else's costumes. (Please nothing scary and no full-faced masks...for safety's sake!) After the parade (which you are cordially invited and encouraged 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 for that day, please let me know.)

Per your overwhelming support at the Back to School Night meeting, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch. Hooray!!! Carol Ann has the trip all planned for Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>!!! 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! I'm the only one who HAS to return to PNS on time...I have to lead Lunch Bunch. But I'd stay at the farm if I could!!! ☺

October also signals the start of my "Star of the Day" program. I will send home a calendar at the beginning of the month which assigns each child "their" special day...it's their time to shine. The Star of the Day will be my special helper...from line leader to calendar person to "Show 'n Teller"...it is "their" day. The night before your child is to be the Star of the Day, I will put the decorated "Show 'n Tell Can" on top of their cubbie. When you arrive in the morning of your child's "Star" day, please place the "chosen" item in the can. I would really like the item to relate to the weekly theme if at all possible. After playing in the Big Room right before dismissal, we always gather on the blue stripe rug for storytime. This is also the time when we will have Show 'n Tell time. As the year progresses, I have hopes of tweaking this process a little more, so that we can work on having good descriptions of the item before the

unveiling and then asking appropriate questions about the item.

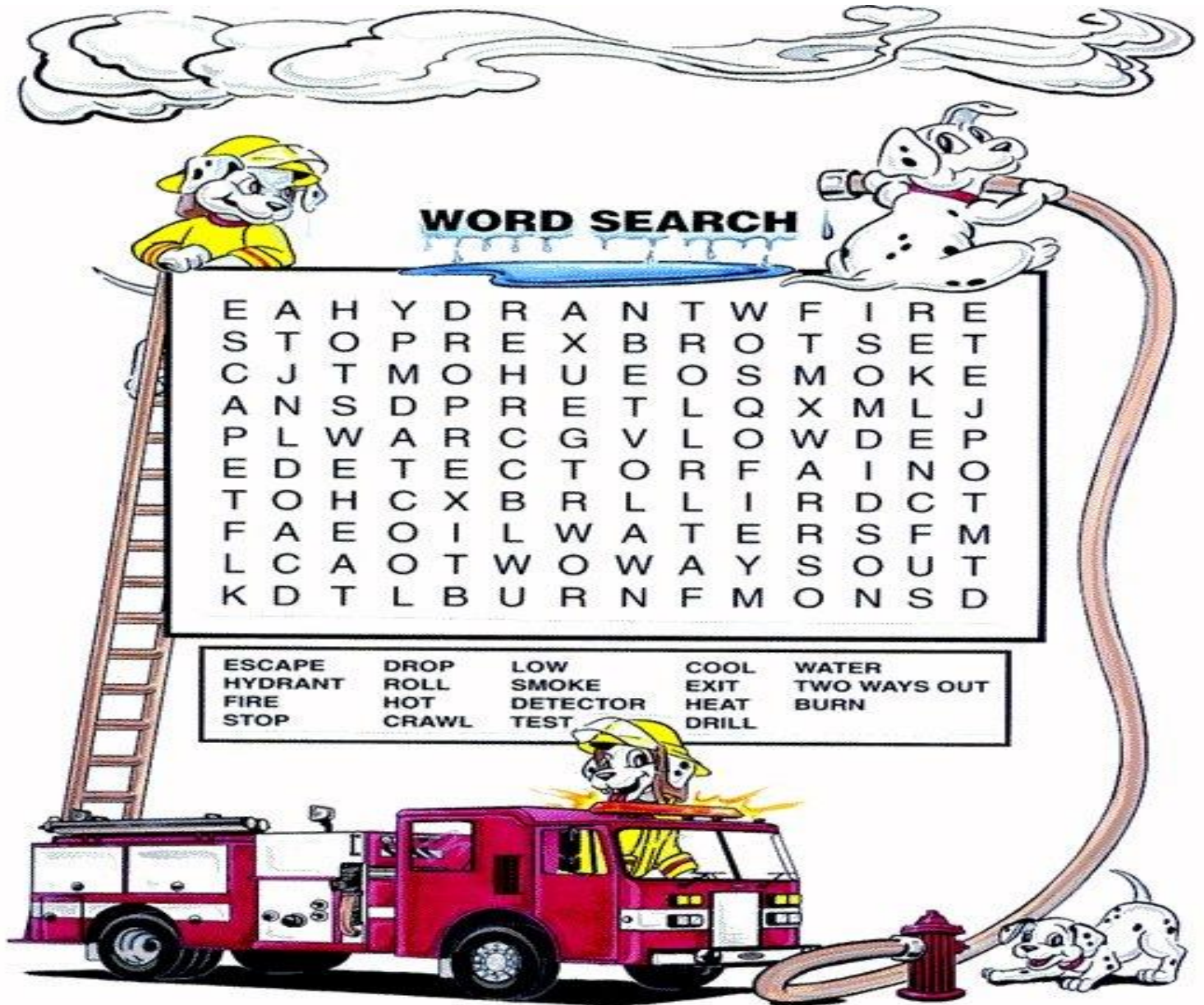
The Monday Gang (the 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month also. We'll take a look at one letter at a time. The lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences

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. October is bound to be even more fun. And I can't wait.

Happy Autumn!!!

Jane Millward



Wow, we have been so busy for the first month of school! Your children have been learning new routines, new jobs and their new friends' names. Water pitchers, Time Tracker, Light Keeper, Crowns of Kindness, action dice and washing dishes have all be very popular activities these first few weeks.

In the coming month we will add some new components to our day- Star of the Day and Letter of the Week. A letter should have come home in your child's backpack on Friday, September 27 about the Star of the Day program. Letters of the Week will be announced in the Coming Attractions email sent on Sunday evenings. We will be incorporating these letters into our weekly activities each week and have several weeks scheduled for review throughout the year.

The week of October 8 we will be discussing **Apples and Pumpkins** as well as how these plants and fruits change throughout the seasons of the year. We'll definitely be trying out some class cooking projects this week. The week of October 15 (a short week due to no school on the 15<sup>th</sup> due to PACT conference), we will be exploring **In the Woods** the leaves and trees of autumn as well as the animals who live there. Nature walks and outside observations will be featured. The week of October 22 we will focus on **Night Creatures** and compare the features of nocturnal and diurnal animals. Our imaginations will certainly be exercised this week. Finally, the week of October 29<sup>th</sup> is all about **Halloween**. Our Halloween parade will be on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Big Room. The children will make their own Halloween "treats" to eat together on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Important upcoming dates to remember: **October 9<sup>th</sup>** Fours Class Brunch, **October 30<sup>th</sup>** Halloween Parade, **November 1<sup>st</sup>** Picture Day

Thanks for continuing to arrive on time, packing healthy snacks and water for the children each day and emptying their backpacks every afternoon. All of this supports a great daily routine and has gotten us off to a wonderful start to the year! Thank you!

Ms. Ryan



## **TUITION**

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Please pay on time and include your tuition invoice, printable from the forms page on the PNS website. A grace period for all payments extends through the 10th of each month. Payment not received by then is subject to a \$25 late fee. Please make your checks payable to "Providence Nursery School, Inc." Your child's name must be printed on the memo line. Put all the tuition checks in the black PNS mailbox in the hallway by the double doors to the Big Room or in the purple box in the Assistant Treasurer's mailbox in the music room. Contact Barbara Rosand [barbaramoro@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramoro@yahoo.com) if you have any questions regarding tuition.

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

It is important to get teacher approval before planning to drop your child in for lunch bunch. Lunch Bunch is FULL on Tuesdays, but we do have space on all the other days. If you are dropping in, check with the lunch bunch teacher or aide for the day to be sure there is space. Payment is due the day of the drop—in. Envelopes can be found in the treasurer's box in the music room. Please contact Barbara Rosand ([barbaramoro@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramoro@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in monthly enrollment.

## **PICTURE DAYS**

Group and Individual school pictures for 2's and the 3/4's will be taken on Thursday, October 31st while CDO, the 3's, and the 4's will be taken on Friday, November 1st.

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](mailto:dawnandbrandon@verizon.net)) and let her know your availability.

## **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 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.

## **ENRICHMENT**

### *Wonderful Wednesday*

Well September enrichment couldn't have been any more exciting than it was—a fantastic fire safety puppet show that was to be followed by a visit from a fire truck, except they were off on an emergency run! Stay tuned and watch for an email about a rescheduled visit with the truck!

October enrichment will be about our bodies and minds! We will have an exciting tae kwon do demonstration on 10/2 at 11:30. On 10/16 at 11:30 we will welcome Mad Science, both new enrichment programs to PNS!

In November, I would like to spend a Wonderful Wednesday making cards for soldiers who will be away from home over the holidays. I am working out details now, but would love to hear from parents who are willing to volunteer some time to prepare materials, help supervise the stations, or donate materials to make cards.

Wonderfully,  
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 need a volunteer on Wednesday, October 2 to cover lunch bunch.
- We also need volunteers to sub for teachers and co-oping parents for one hour during October Parent Brunches from 9:30-10:30am. Please let Natalie Gray [graynh@verizon.net](mailto:graynh@verizon.net) know if you are able to help out.
- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm for one volunteer hour.
- Let Natalie Gray [graynh@verizon.net](mailto:graynh@verizon.net) know if you are attending the October Maintenance Day on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:30. All

families are required to attend one Maintenance Day per class enrolled.

If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact Natalie Gray at [graynh@verizon.net](mailto:graynh@verizon.net)

## FUNDRAISING

### *Matchbox Swap*

Join us for a morning playdate in the Big Room on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30. (There is no school that day, due to a teacher conference.) This is officially a "Matchbox Swap" but if your child doesn't want to swap cars, that is not necessary. If you do plan to swap, please have each child bring two cars for trading so that everyone has a good selection to choose from. Admission is \$5 per child; adults are free but you must stay - this is not a drop-off playdate. We will have snacks, crafts, and lots of transportation toys to play with. Siblings are welcome. You may pay at the door, but please let us know by Friday the 11th if you plan to join us so we have enough snacks.

### *Holiday Shop*

Thank you to those who have already submitted their Holiday Shop forms. Please do try to return these to us (with payment) by the first week of October. You may return the forms to the "Fundraising" mailbox in the Music Room or in the black mailbox by the entrance to the Big Room. It takes a lot of planning to make sure that we have all of the gifts we need. If you do not "RSVP" for Holiday Shop in advance, your child may still come but will have to wait until the end when there will be less gifts to choose from. If you have any questions about what this event is or how it works, please contact Alex or myself. And we still need a volunteer Santa!

### *DISNEY ON ICE TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!*

Thanks to Bridget Benov (3s class) and Feld Entertainment, we have tickets for the Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> show at 12:30 at the Patriot Center. (For more info about the show itself, see the Patriot Center website). We are selling the tickets for \$30 apiece and every single dollar will go directly to PNS! In order to ensure that every preschool family has a chance to get tickets, please only purchase enough tickets for your immediate family. (If you want to take Grandma instead of Dad as the second adult or something that is fine.) If there are still tickets available in a few weeks, I will let you know if you can buy extra for your extended family, friends, or neighbors who may want to go with you. You can order tickets by leaving payment along with a note with your name, class, and contact info in the "Fundraising" mailbox in

the Music Room or in the black mailbox outside the Big Room. I will wait to actually distribute the tickets till the week before the event so we can try to seat families from the same class together.

If you have questions about any of these events, or anything else related to fundraising, please e-mail one of us. Thanks so much for your support of our school!

Fundraising Co-Chairs

Liz Claeys ([claeyssee@yahoo.com](mailto:claeyssee@yahoo.com)) and Alex Erickson ([alexandraerickson@hotmail.com](mailto:alexandraerickson@hotmail.com))

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the November Newsletter please submit it by October 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 [elizabethccarroll@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethccarroll@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to Alex Hume and Chris DiTeresi for doing a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions.

Thank you to Mandi Felici 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.

Thank you to Rob Moss for giving up a Friday afternoon to install much-needed shelving in our new bike shed.


Thank you to Dawn Ahrens and Lori Thomas for putting together the class placemats, setting up the Shutterfly sites, and organizing our school picture days.

Thank you to Aimee Emmerich for arranging our enrichment activities for the year, starting with the fire department visit in September.

Thank you to Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson for organizing our fundraisers for the first half of the year: apparel sales, Ah Love Oil Tasting, Disney ticket sales, matchbox swap, Barnes and Noble, and Holiday Shop. We are off to a great start!



# OCTOBER 2013

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
<i>Note: Wednesdays in October, Soccer Sessions from 1:45pm-2:15pm</i>		<b>1</b> <b>Tuition Due</b>	<b>2</b> Tae Kwon Do Enrichment	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>World Teacher's Day</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Brunch CDO 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Brunch 2s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Brunch 4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Brunch 3/4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Brunch 3s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>15</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PACT Conference Matchbox Swap 10am	<b>16</b> Mad Science Enrichment	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Penumbral Lunar Eclipse</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3/4s Field Trip to Cox's Farm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>National Bologna Day</i>	<b>25</b> 3s Field Trip to Burke Nursery	<b>26</b> <b>Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am</b>
<b>27</b> <i>National Tell-a- story Day</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Halloween Parade CDO 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Halloween Parade 2s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Halloween Parade 3s, 3/4s, &amp; 4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	<b>31</b> <b>School Pictures 2s &amp; 3/4s</b>		