

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Natalie...



Mark your Calendar

Saturday Decemeber 6th

Holiday Shop
9:30am-12:30pm

Monday December 8th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

Thursday December 11th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

Saturday December 13th

Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

December 22nd thru January 5rd

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Monday January 5th

School Resumes

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



Dear PNS Families,

Along with the cold and snow, December brings with it many reasons to celebrate at PNS!

The Littlest Tree, our annual giving tree, will make its appearance in the Big Room in early December. This is a holiday tradition at PNS in which families may choose to donate new hats, mittens, scarves, and underwear to be given to needy children in the area. The kids always enjoy decorating our tree with some much needed gifts for those less fortunate.

Another PNS holiday tradition of giving is our annual Holiday Shop on December 6th. The children are invited to buy gifts for their family members and friends from our well stocked "store." It is more than just the shopping that makes this event so special. The fundraising and social committees have set up a morning of fun for the entire family. Snacks, crafts, and even photos with Santa are all on tap this year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Finally, just for the parents, we can celebrate the holidays and gather together at our annual holiday party on Thursday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m. Jane Millward has graciously offered to host again this year. It is sure to be a lovely evening of food, friends, and lots of laughs during our annual ornament exchange. An Evite with all of the details will be sent out soon. Mark your calendar now!

December also marks the beginning of our enrollment period at PNS. All currently enrolled families will be receiving an enrollment packet via email within the next few weeks. It is not too soon to be thinking about which class you are interested in for next year. If you aren't sure, please feel free to speak to your child's current teacher. Our teachers know more about our classes than anyone and might have some ideas for which would be the best fit for your child.

We are also thinking about next year's board of directors. Each year we have to say goodbye to board members as their children move on from PNS, leaving us with several positions to fill. Please contact me or any other board member if you would like more information about joining the PNS board.

Warmest Wishes to you all as we celebrate the holidays and welcome a brand new year,

Natalie

CDO & 2's

'Tis the season to be jolly – and the Twos and CDO classes will certainly be jolly, singing and dancing our way into December as we learn all about music! We'll learn some new songs and dance moves, read about and try out some new musical instruments, and make our own instruments to play and take home.

For the following two weeks, we'll be looking at some of our favorite parts of the winter holidays: snow, decorations, gingerbread, and gifts! We've been practicing our pretend cooking skills for weeks, and now it's time to put them to good use with a real cooking project. We'll also practice using scissors and tape to make some festive decorations, sing winter songs, and jingle plenty of bells. Finally, we will examine gift boxes of different sizes to learn about squares, and talk about giving, sharing, and thanking.

Please be sure that your child has a warm coat with a hood or hat and gloves or mittens each school day. Whenever possible, I will take the class outside to play, or to walk around and observe the changes in the environment. If the weather is bad, or the temperature too cold, we will get our exercise in the gym, running races and playing games.

Our Winter Break begins on December 22nd. Whether your plans include travel, festivities, or relaxing at home, I wish you all a happy time with your families and friends!

With warm wishes and fond thoughts,

Ms. Auten

Inclement Weather Dismissal Policy

Providence Nursery School generally follows Fairfax County Public Schools' policies regarding school openings and delays. If FCPS are closed due to inclement weather, PNS will be closed as well. Natalie will send an email notifying the school of any closures or delays as soon as the information becomes available. Please also listen to the local news or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-FCPS (3277) for the latest information. Also check www.fcps.edu, where you can sign up for FCPS email notification system.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays

PNS Class Time	FCPS 1 hr. delay	FCPS 2 hr. delay	FCPS 1 hr. early closing	FCPS 2 hr. early closing
9:30–12:30	10:30–1:30	11:30–1:30	No change	No change
Lunch Bunch 12:30–1:30	1:30–2:30	1:30–2:30	No change	No change

This year is winding down, but the excitement of the holidays is revving up as we prepare for family and school celebrations. We all get caught up in the fun of parties, shopping, concerts and gift giving - and receiving. We've got plenty of fun here at school, too.

Our first week of the month will be all about Music. In addition to music class with our wonderful Miss Allison, we will play some musical games and try our hands at making an instrument. After that it's Gingerbread Fun. Of course, that calls for some cooking because it just smells so good. And we can't forget about our speedy friend, the Gingerbread Man. The last week of the month (and year!) will be devoted to Holiday Traditions. We'll talk about special things we do at this time of year and work on gifts for some special people in our lives.

Here are some dates for your December calendar. We will have our second field trip on December 3rd to the Tunes for Tots concert at Woodson High School. It's a holiday program lovingly presented by high schoolers just for preschool kids and it's always a big hit. The annual Holiday Shop will be open for business on December 6th. Your children will have an opportunity to do some secret shopping with the help of some friendly volunteer "elves". On December 11th, Mrs. Millward is generously opening her house for the annual PNS holiday party. It's definitely worth getting a babysitter, so you can come and share the fun and good food. Stay tuned for information about enrichment activities.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break full of the stuff that fond memories are made of. Then before you know it, we'll be saying "Happy New Year"!

Miss Susan



Giving Tree

Hello Friends,

I am very busy packing and making my plans to visit Providence Nursery School again this year. I have spent the past few months lifting weights so that my branches will be very strong to hold all the wonderful new hats, mittens, gloves, and most especially the underwear that you will be bringing to hang on me. I'm hoping to get a real work out this year! All your donations will be given to the boys and girls at the ACCA Child Development Center. Please remember that CHILDREN OF ALL AGES are in need!

See you very soon. I'll be spending my time in the Big Room, but just ask a teacher or another parent if you need some help finding me!

- The Littlest Tree

The holiday season is upon us – with all of its excitement and feelings of anticipation. I feel so lucky to spend this wonderful time of year with such a special group of kidlets. Their smiles and giggles make every day a great day at PNS! Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful preschool creations.

The week of December 1st will find us playing and talking and dancing with/to music! What instruments sound familiar and can we build some of our own? ☺ There will also be lots of experimentation going on...with different tempos and different rhythms. How melodic can we be? Starting on 12/8, we will move into the world of hibernating animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, etc. will all be the topic of our circle times. I bet we'll even "Go on a Bear Hunt" once or twice during the week. Holiday traditions will dominate discussion time during our last week of school in 2014. We'll also spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. What a month!

Our field trip for this exciting time of year will be on Wednesday, December 3rd when we travel down the road to W. T. Woodson High School for the annual Tiny Tots Concert. It always marks the beginning of the holiday season for me! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! Hooray for the holidays!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be M(12/1), A(12/8), and a Review Day(12/15). This group is really enjoying their letter "work." They especially look forward to listening to the "Silly Song" that accompanies each letter introduction and reaching into the ????? box.

Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be on Thursday, 12/11...and it's at my house! Yea! So

look for your invitation and I do hope to see you there!

Happy, happy holidays and blessings to you and your families!

Jane Millward



December is here! This is a very busy month both at the Bianchetti house as well as at PNS. This month we'll be getting ready for the coming winter months as well as getting ready for the holiday season.

The week of December 1st sounds of **Music** fill the air. We'll make our own instruments and talk about sound as vibrations that we can see, feel and hear. Teamwork and cooperation will be necessary when we try and play instruments like an orchestra or band, concentrating on tempo and playing "together." Perfectly timed will be our field trip to the Tiny Tots Concert at Woodson on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. The Letter of the Week will be M.

The week of December 8th we'll be **Getting Ready for Winter**. Migration and hibernation will be key topics of discussion as well as gathering food for the long cold months. We have a great transition song to sing about Migration and Hibernation, so keep an ear out for your little one to be singing it around the house. We will compare and contrast the different ways animals get ready for winter, including how we humans get ready too. We'll have science projects to show how some animals stay warm. The Letter of the Week will be our first vowel, A.

The week of December 15th will focus on the many **Holidays** celebrated in our homes. We'll be talking about family traditions and finding the similarities we all share in our families. I'll be asking you to talk to your children about a family holiday tradition in your home and help them complete a "homework" activity to share with their friends at school. We'll also be working on some surprise gifts. We will be reviewing the letters we have had so far this year – F, P, L, N, H, S, T, M & A.

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.**

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy break and I will look forward to hearing all about your children's adventures when you return on January 6th!

Ms. Ryan



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

Winter Enrichment

PNS is excited to bring back our winter enrichment activity this year, **It's Hip Hop Time**, led by Keri Drugan. Keri is an exercise and wellness coordinator with the Jewish Community Center. In this eight-week class, she will teach your little one the basics of hip hop dance, isolations, rhythm, and attitude, while engaging them in a fun new way to exercise while building confidence and gaining friendships. **It's Hip Hop Time** will be held on Wednesdays, January 7 – February 25 (March 4 - make up day) from 1:45 -2:15 for students enrolled in the 3's, 3/4's and 4's classes. Students do not need to be enrolled in Lunch Bunch to attend. Cost for the class is \$120. Space in this class is limited to 15. Enrollment forms will be sent out via email but will not be accepted until **Wednesday, December 10th**.

Wonderful Wednesday

Few things get me as excited as science. I fully admit to being a total geek. I wear math joke T-shirts, get regular emails from thinkgeek.com, and buy my kids pretty much anything Wacky Lab comes up with. So I saved our Mad Science presentation for a holiday treat. Our little ones will get to observe science so impressive and amazing it may seem like magic December 10th at 11:30. CDO, 2s, and siblings are welcome with a supervising parent.

Speech and Language Screening

Skill Builders will be conducting screenings for speech and language (performed by speech pathologists) and

for sensory-motor/visual-motor skills (performed by occupational therapists) at PNS on Thursday, January 22nd and on Friday, January 23rd. The screenings include time with each child, as well as information from the child's parents and teachers.

The speech and language screening is \$15 per child. The sensory-motor/visual-motor screening is \$15, if your child is also receiving the speech and language screening, or \$20, if performed on its own.

A packet containing the informational letter and the permission slip will be sent home in students' backpacks on December 4th and 5th. If you are interested in one or both of the screenings, please complete and return the necessary paperwork as soon as possible--preferably by Friday, December 19th (the last day before Winter Break), but no later than Monday, January 12th.

Parent Education

Please join us for our second Parent Education talk on Friday, December 5th, from 9:45-10:45 AM in the church's parlor. Carol Muleta from the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) of Kensington, MD, will present:

Raising "I Can" Kids

A child's "I Can Quotient" is a more important indicator of ability to thrive in life than the traditional IQ. Learn strategies to increase your child's sense of feeling connected, capable, competent and courageous.

A question/answer period will follow Ms. Muleta's presentation. Younger siblings are welcome to attend the talk. Refreshments will be served, and participants will earn one Parent Education hour.

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. We have a lot of volunteer opportunities this month. Hopefully each family will have completed at least half of their required volunteer hours by the end of December. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

- **December 3 12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch Bunch Sub**
- **December 6 10am -1pm Holiday shop: See**

Fundraising Committee to volunteer.

- **December 8 7:30pm Board Meeting**
- **December 13 8:30am - 11:30am cleaning and maintenance day**

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 Kristen, VP Admin.

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

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who participated in Color Me Mine and the Barnes & Noble fundraisers! Thank you to the Fairfax Barnes & Noble for hosting our book fair. Thank you to Miss Auten, Miss Susan, Miss Allison, Mrs. Millward, and Miss Ryan for entertaining us with terrific stories and music. And, of course, thank you to all of the PNS families and alums who shopped to support our school!

Holiday Shop will run from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Santa will visit for pictures between 10am and noon. I will send out a photo session sign-up to everyone who submitted a Holiday Shop form. Jen Brooks will take family photos or photos of kids with Santa for \$10.

We are still working on plans for a spring fundraiser. Let us know if you have suggestions!

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 January Newsletter please submit it by December 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

CONGRATULATIONS

Olivia is now a big sister!

Julie Ann Ahern was born on November 10th, and she was 7 lbs 12 oz and 21 inches. Congratulations to Melissa and John on the newest addition to their family!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has been helping to keep the playground free of leaves: Paradise, Shadid and Vierira de Carvalho families

Thank you to Lori Thomas for organizing our school picture days once again this year and to all those who volunteered to help with the details and to make our kids smile: Michelle Lewis, Liz Ramstad, Rosalie Hallmark, Kristen Konisky, Jennifer Brooks, Melissa Ahern, Bryna Erickson, and Kristen Browning

Thank you to Allison Hagner for subbing during CDO conferences

Thank you to all who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up for the VCPC fall forum: Jocelyn Crawford, Beth Ann Clare, Meredyth Havasy


Thank you to Kristen Browning for setting up the informative Parent Ed presentation; Lesya Cely our VCPC rep and Lori Thomas who helped with setup, clean up and brought food

Also, Kristen Browning subbed for Lunch Bunch on 11/5.

Thank you to all PNS families who donated so much to the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry. Your generosity was tremendous and allowed many needy families in our own community to suffer a little less this Thanksgiving. Please remember the food pantry is always in need and accepts donations all year round.

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!

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
	1 Tuition Due	2	3	4 <i>Wear Brown Shoes Day</i>	5	6 Holiday Shop 9:30am-12:30pm
7	8 Board Meeting 7:30pm	9	10	11 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	12	13 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
14	15	16	17 <i>National Maple Syrup Day</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>National Flashlight Day</i>	22 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL
28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL <i>New Year's Eve</i>	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		<i>School resumes Monday January 5th</i>

The Providence Presbyterian Church **Youth Rummage Sale & Pancake Breakfast** Will be March 21, 2015 from 8 am- Noon!



Donate items through the week, then on Saturday, shop for baby clothes & gear, kids clothes, toys, home décor, adult clothing & shoes, furniture, books and anything else you can think of (except TVs and computers). Proceeds fund youth ministry events throughout the year including mission trips and retreats!