

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Natalie...



Mark your Calendar **Wednesday, September, 9th**

Open House – Big Room

(See calender for class times).
Siblings are welcome. This is a
chance for you and your child to
play together with their
classmates. **Teachers will not be
present.**

Wednesday, September, 9th

Back to School Night – Big Rm **7:30 PM (7:00 PM for CDO).**

There is a lot of very important
information discussed, so one
parent from each family is
required to attend. Many of our
events are child friendly; however this is
not one of them. So please make other
arrangements for your children.

Thursday, September, 10th

Co-op Training

& Abbreviated School Day

(See calender for class times)
Co-op Training is required for
every co-oping parent every two
years. Attendance counts towards
your Parent Education hours.

Monday, September 14th

Co-op Training 6:30-7:30 PM

(Alternate date)

September Board Mtg-7:30 pm

Monday, September 14th

First Day of School

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



On behalf of the Providence Nursery School elected board, I am happy to welcome you to the 2015 -2016 school year. I look forward to working in partnership with all of you to make this year a success!

I'd like to take this time to welcome two new staff members to our PNS family this year - Cindy Farnum will be our floating aide on Monday, Thursday and Fridays and Karen Wallace will be supporting Miss Susan and the 3s class. This year Kelly Volciak will be the permanent aide with Mrs. Millward in the 3/4s class and support where needed on Tuesdays. Ms. Auten will continue teaching our CDO and 2s classes. Miss Emmy will be aiding in the CDO class and the 4s class supporting Miss Ryan. Miss Phyllis will continue to aide in the 2s class and support where needed on Wednesdays. Miss Allison will continue leading our music classes. Our staff has been working hard to get ready for this school year and is excited to be with your children.

I've really enjoyed seeing so many of you at the play dates and there are several more events to kick off this school year. Back to School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 pm (7pm for CDO). This is a mandatory meeting for each family, and it is for parents only. Children should not attend. We'll go over policies and procedures, logistics of our school days as well as the requirements of being part of a cooperative preschool. Following the general meeting, teachers will spend time with their individual class groups. CDO parents should plan on arriving at 7:00 p.m. to meet with Ms. Auten since she will be meeting with the 2s parents following the meeting. Our Open House will also be on Wednesday, September 9th, in the morning. This event is a great chance for the kids to get comfortable playing with their friends at school. Thursday, September 10th is an abbreviated school day and co-op training for parents. There will also be an evening session of co-op training on Monday, September 14th at 6:30pm and the September board meeting will follow at 7:30pm.

As I head into my second year in the role of PNS president, with my baby starting her preschool career, I'm honored and grateful to be in the company of so many working hard to support our children's education and development. Thank you for all you do. You are appreciated!

We have a wonderful school year ahead of us!

Natalie

CDO & 2's

After a refreshing summer of outdoor adventures with the family and reading my way through a stack of books, I am looking forward to one of the great joys of Fall: seeing preschool friends!

In fact, our first learning theme for September will be *Making Friends*. The children have already met classmates at play dates and visited with me at the school. Now we will spend some time getting to know each other better as we practice greeting each other and remembering names, sing and read about friends, and play together.

During the following two weeks, we will explore our first shape theme, Circles, and then talk about our Families. Each week in September we will also focus on a different Color of the Week, using art materials and playdough in that color, and looking around to identify things that match our color.

Meanwhile, the children will be getting familiar with our class routine. Each school day will begin with your child “checking in” on the attendance board, and being greeted at the door and offered choices for play. You will be amazed at how quickly your child learns the entire schedule and knows just what to expect next!

Starting out in a new situation can make both children and parents feel a little anxious. However, we will work together to say calm goodbyes at the door, start the day off right with a warm welcome, and follow a predictable routine; soon we will all be adapted and ready to report back on the news of the morning. Parents can find out more about all of our activities through weekly emails from me and notes on the whiteboard outside the classroom.

Welcome to preschool, everyone!

Warmly,

Ms. Auten

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

- NO NUTS! PNS is a nut aware school. This means no peanuts or tree nuts in the school, on the playground, or at school events held after hours. Please also check with your teacher and other parents in your class before bringing any snacks or treats to share.
- Please send a complete change of clothes labeled with your child’s name on the first day of school. Clothes should be appropriate for the season and changed for a new set when necessary.
- Check your child’s backpack each day for any important notes from teachers as well as their newly created artwork.
- Weather permitting; playground time is a part of every day. Your child should be dressed appropriately in comfortable clothing. Open-toed shoes are not a good idea for the playground since pea gravel between the toes does not feel good!
- In order to avoid hurt feelings, please leave toys at home unless requested by your teacher for show and tell.

Did you have a great summer? I hope so. Because then you will be ready for a great school year. We'll start learning things as soon as we walk in the door: where to put our backpacks and snack, what room to go to first, our new friends' names and who likes to play with the same things we do. It's always exciting and a little scary to get together with a new group of people, but before you know it we'll all be best buddies.

In addition to learning "how to go to school", we will explore a different theme each week. Our first will be Me and My New Friends. We'll play some get acquainted games and sing plenty of songs with our names in them. Next we will talk about something we all have in common – Body Parts. We'll identify them, move them and use them for art and games. Our last theme for September is Fire Safety. On Wednesday, the 30th, our local firefighters will visit in their truck and bring their puppets to teach us an important safety lesson.

In case you're hearing lots of "I don't know"s, when you want to know how your preschooler's day went, here are some kinds of questions you can ask:

- Did you paint at the easel today?
- Who's Cleo?
- What story did Miss Susan read today?
- Who did you sit next to at snack time?
- Did you go down a slide on the playground?
- What toy did you play with after circle time?

A few reminders:

Please bring a backpack large enough to hold papers and art projects.

Send a complete change of seasonal clothes (shoes, too) in a resealable plastic bag with your

child's name clearly printed on the outside. This will make any little accidents or spills much easier to deal with.

It's best to wear closed shoes for the playground because no one likes to stop in the middle of running around to empty pea gravel out of sandals.

Take snack bags out of backpacks when you arrive in the morning and put them in the bottom section of the cubby so they will be easy to grab at snack time.

Toys and special treasures are best left at home so we don't have any disputes or hurt feelings.

I can't wait to get to know everyone and begin our year long relationships. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. E-mail is fine or catch me after class and I truly don't mind if you call me at home.

Let's go to school!!

Miss Susan



Goodbye, August...goodbye long, lazy days. Goodbye beach trips, ice cream trucks, and lots of time to do nothing in particular. Hello, September...now it's time for preschool! Summer is coming to a close and the anticipation of a new school year is in the air!

The 3s/4s class will begin the new year learning about ourselves, our school, and others. September is a good time to explore our preschool and to learn the classroom schedule and routine. Friends play a big part of our time together, so we will try to learn all about our classmates – especially their names! And, we will take time to learn about each other's families and homes. (How many people are there in your family...any pets?) Also, we will review our colors (yellow, blue, and red) and shapes (squares, circles, and triangles). Now that will be a colorful few days! Stand by for a very busy, FUN month!

The "Fours Gang" will have a kindergarten readiness component added to their schedule on Mondays. Details about this will follow. The "Star of the Day" part of our program will begin in October. On your child's special day, he/she will be line leader, calendar person, show-and-tell sharer, and all those other wonderful preschool "jobs." I'll provide a calendar at the beginning of every month, naming our special daily Stars.

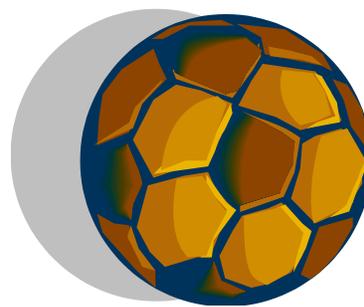
Co-operative preschools like Providence are a partnership between parents and teachers. I hope that throughout the year, you will share with me your observations and suggestions. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you over the next few weeks. We are going to have a great time together watching your child's personality blossom and grow.

I can't wait for the school year to begin!!! How 'bout you?

Jane Millward

SOCCER

Fall Soccer kicks off on **September 30**. Soccer is held on the lawn behind the church on Wednesdays 1:45 – 2:15pm (after lunch bunch) for 6 weeks and is open to PNS students enrolled in 3s, 3/4s, and 4s classes. Applications will be sent via email soon. The application and a check for \$100 made payable to Soccer Club Management is due on Wednesday, September 23.



Summer has just sped by and it is always a bit sad for me to send my boys off to school come September. However, I know fifth and third grade will be a lot of fun for my kids and I am so very happy to have my mornings filled with FUN at PNS this year.

We will be spending the first (short) month really getting to know each other and our new routines at school. By the end of September, answering the morning question, checking in on the apple tree and finding our job on the job chart will all be routine. Our Morning Meetings at 9:45 will have become a little more complex as we add in new kinds of greetings and games as we master each other's names.

The first week of school will be **All About Me** and we'll share our Me Bags as well as read several books where children accomplish big (and not so big) goals for themselves. Your children will be thinking of their own Hopes and Dreams for the school year. The next week of school will be **Me and My Family** which lead to some discussions about how our families are alike and different and activities we like to do with our families. We'll continue to work on our personal books with the pictures you sent. The last week of September we will talk **Feelings and Manners**. We will be looking at our faces as we show different feelings, "reading" other people's faces and practice matching feeling words with expressions. We will discuss how manners help us "take care" of other people's feelings. We will also focus on important social skills like active listening, personal space, waiting to speak, turn taking and using "I-messages" to express our feelings. Clearly these are lofty goals!! This month introduces very important concepts that we will work on all year long.

Don't forget to dress for outside play each and every day that we can be out. Water will be available at snack time, so pack a non-breakable cup in the snack bag if you would like your child to partake. Parking spaces, photos and a change of clothes to be kept at

school can all be given to me at Back to School Night, the abbreviated day on Thursday, September 9 or our First Day of School on Tuesday, September 15. Me Bags can be brought the first day of school.

I am so grateful to continue to be part of this fabulous co-op. I loved every moment my boys were at Providence Nursery School. I have the best memories of time spent here and I hope each of you and your children will continue to make your own wonderful memories this year. Please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing each of you in class, whether co-oping or just visiting.

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. Feel free to bring September's payment to Back to School Night. Many families choose to prepay their entire tuition for the year in the September payment (and receive a 3% discount for doing so). If you would like to take advantage of this, please pay the full amount by **September 9th**. Families should have received their prepayment amounts from me via email. If they did not, have them email Michelle Lewis at lewis090107@gmail.com for their prepayment amount.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch Openings! There are still openings for lunch bunch. Please contact Alex Hume, (alexandrahume@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

CO-OP TRAINING DAY NOTE

Co-op training will be held on **Thursday, September 10th**. The session for parents of 2's and 4's will begin at 9:30 AM; the session for 3's and 3/4's will begin at 11:00 AM. An alternate training session will be held on Monday, September 14th from 6:30-7:30 PM.

The Co-op training day is expected to last about an hour but participants can plan on staying and enjoying some refreshments with other parents until they have to pick the kids up from the abbreviated school day at 11:00am or 12:30pm depending on which session they are attending. See the calendar for class times.

PARENT EDUCATION

Please join us for our first Parent Education talk of the school year on **Tuesday, October 13th** from 9:45-10:45 AM in the church's parlor. Carol Muleta from the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) of Kensington, Maryland will present "Power Tools for Power Struggles." A question/answer period will follow her presentation. Come to hear an informative talk, enjoy light refreshments, and earn one Parent Education hour. Younger siblings are welcome to attend. Contact

Kristen Browning with any questions about this event.

Save the Date: Monday, November 9th from 6:15-7:15 PM (prior to the Board Meeting) in the Big Room: Amy Miller, an FCPS Kindergarten teacher, will present "Developing Early Literacy Skills." She will discuss strategies to encourage early reading and writing skills in your preschooler. A question/answer period will follow her talk. Light refreshments will be served, and those who attend will earn one Parent Education hour.

ENRICHMENT

Wonderful Wednesday

First I would like to take a moment to explain what Enrichment means at PNS. We book a 30 min presentation 1 or 2 Wednesdays a month, these activities range from story tellers, to animal or safety experts, and everything in between. The presentations almost always take place in The Big Room at 11:30 am and are always on Wednesdays. All students in the 3s, 3/4s, and 4s will attend with their classes. Parents, 2s, CDO, and siblings are always welcome to join us unless expressly mentioned in that month's description.

This year we kick off Enrichment with a Fire Safety and Puppet show at **11:30 am September 30th** in the big room. Kids will learn about fire safety while getting a chance to talk to real firefighters, climb on the truck, and enjoy a puppet show.

Thanks,

Bryna Erickson



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Oh Boy! Oh Baby! Our PNS family is growing. Congratulations to the Thomas, Brooks, Clare and Boland families and welcome to summer babies Austin, Henry, Harvey, and Teddy.

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 four. Here are some ideas to help you get a head start on completing those hours.

- Bring a snack or baked goods to Back-To-School Night or other school functions. Contact **Contact Leah Fogarty**, leahkerkman@gmail.com for more information.
- Spend an hour raking pea gravel on the playground. This should be done weekly. Email Mary Ellen & Rob Moss at melonbusey@yahoo.com if you would like to help with playground maintenance.
- Check in with teachers who might need help preparing for art projects or need other assistance in the classrooms.
- Substitute for lunch bunch on occasional Wednesdays **Contact Leah Fogarty**, leahkerkman@gmail.com, will have a list of dates soon.
- Attend an extra cleanup/maintenance day during the school year. One attendance is required per child enrolled, but we could always use the extra help.
- Assist the fundraising committee with upcoming events. Check with Liz Claeys or Carisa Pineda for details.
- Attend a board meeting held the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Big Room at school.

If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact **Contact Leah Fogarty**, leahkerkman@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING

We are excited to start another year of fundraising at PNS! Please see our flyer in the Back to School packet, which describes what we have planned so far for the school year. We are always grateful for parent suggestions about what events to do and how to improve. Feel free to e-mail Liz Claeys or Carisa Pineda with any questions or suggestions.

PNS apparel will be available at Back to School night on September 9th. We can accept cash or check, but not credit cards. Our first fundraising event for the fall will be PNS night at our neighborhood Elevation Burger, located in the Turnpike Shopping Center. On Tuesday, October 6th, 10% of sales made between 5 and 8 pm will go to PNS, if you show our flyer at the check-out. Flyers will be distributed via PNSall and in backpacks the week before. Please encourage friends and family to come out also!

Fundraising Co-Chairs

Liz Claeys (claeyssee@yahoo.com) and Carisa Pineda

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the October Newsletter please submit it by September 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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended the August Clean Up and Maintenance day, Jason Fogarty, Marbin Pineda, Cori Parker, Ravi Kamath, Lori and Greg Thomas, Michelle Lewis, Zeina Frayha, Mark Browning, Jenny Robinson, Melissa Ahern, Arnaldo Carvalho, John Millward, and Ed Gray. Thank you to Maintenance Committee members Rob Moss and Charles Havasy, as well as Clean-Up Coordinator PJ Pitera.

Thank you to the Class Reps for their efforts organizing co-op schedules and play dates over the summer: Jennifer Wiskochil (CDO), Lori Thomas (2s) Elizabeth Boland (3s), Marisa Chartier (3/4s) and Emily Sherron (4s).

Thank you to Leah Fogarty, Jane Millward, Michelle Lewis, Jennifer Wiskochil and Jenny Robinson for serving on our hiring committee over the summer.



SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
		1 Tuition Due	2	3	4	5 <i>Cheese Pizza Day</i>
6	7 <i>Labor Day</i>	8	9 PNS Open House 10:00am-CDO 10:30am-2s 11:00am 3s 11:30am 3/4s 12:00pm 4s Back to School Night (7:00pm CDO) 7:30pm	10 Co-op Training 9:30-10:30am 2s & 4s 11:00am- 12:00pm 3s &3/4s	11	12 <i>Chocolate Milkshake Day</i>
13	14 First Day of School! Alt Co-op training 6:30pm Board Meeting 7:30pm	15	16 <i>National Play Doh Day</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22 <i>Elephant Appreciation Day</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Johnny Appleseed Day</i>
27	28 <i>National Good Neighbor Day</i>	29	30 First Day of Soccer Fire Safety Puppet Show & Truck Visit 11:30am			