

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

# THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

## *A Letter from Natalie...*



### Mark your Calendar

#### October 5<sup>th</sup> thru 14<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.

#### Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>

FCPS Holiday

No School

#### Monday October, 12<sup>th</sup>

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

PNS Board Meeting 7:30pm

#### Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>

Cleaning and Maintenance Day

8:30am-11:30am

#### Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>

PACT Conference

No School

#### October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Halloween Parades 9:30am

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

#### Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>

Picture Day for 2s & 3/4s

#### Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>

Picture Day for CDO, 3s, & 4s

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

We have gotten off to a great 2015-2016 school year at PNS! Thank you to our wonderful teachers, aides, and PNS families. Hopefully by now, your little one is settling in and loving preschool.

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 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 14. Please see the school calendar for dates and look for emails from your child's teacher and class rep with details. The brunches are a fun, casual way to get to know other parents in your class, learn about your children's class as well as to earn 30 minutes of parent education credit.

PNS is closed on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> for a FCPS holiday and Columbus Day. Our monthly board meeting will still be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to attend. The agenda will be out soon. PNS is closed on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> as well. Our teachers will be at a conference and our fundraising committee is working on a fun play date. Be on the lookout for more information.

On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> we will hold our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year. 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!

Happy Fall!



*Natalie*

## CDO & 2's

After a busy first few weeks of learning about new people and new routines, my young friends are finding that the school day is starting to feel comfortable and familiar. They know that Ms. Auten leads our “train” from place to place, that it’s time to clean up the toys when we hear the clean-up bell, and where we’ll go when we come in from the playground. So what’s next?

In the first weeks of October, we’ll be learning all about body parts and clothing. We’ll read about parts of the body, try out some new exercises and sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.” We’ll identify colors that match, play with lots of dress-ups, and help Albert the Lion make good clothing choices.

Then we’ll turn our attention to some highlights of the Fall season, starting with changes in the weather and falling leaves. We’ll sing leafy songs and create leafy art... we’ll also be going outside to explore and 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. We’ll read about pumpkins and spend some time examining real pumpkins, inside and out. Some Halloween traditions can be a little scary for my 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 5<sup>th</sup> (for CDO) and October 6<sup>th</sup> (for the 2s), and to all of the fun activities ahead in October!

Warmly,

Ms. Auten



We've made our way through September and have already learned a lot. We know our new friends' names, where our cubbies are, how to check in each morning, who Cleo is, that pea gravel and sand should stay on the ground, we have to clean up our things after snack time and we always pick a sun picture for the weather even when it's cloudy or rainy. I guess we're just optimists!

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 14<sup>th</sup>, we grownups get to spend an hour together chatting and brunching for some parent education credit. Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, is the 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

As if all of that wasn't enough, we also have our monthly themes to concentrate on. The first two weeks we'll talk about Community Helpers. We had a visit from a popular one last month - firefighters. There are lots of others we can identify and match up with the tools they use. Then it's all about Pumpkins. We'll hunt for them, read about them, put them in our art and maybe even carve our own jack o' lantern. 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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October...thoughts of football games, pumpkins and spider webs, cool mornings, earlier darkness, geese honking as they fly south, long walks through the woods with my dogs...and the sounds of happy children tromping through tons of falling leaves on the playground at preschool. Yep...it's autumn!

October also will find us exploring several important topics... fire safety, our five senses, manners, and best of all, Halloween! During fire safety week(10/5), we will practice 'stop, drop, and roll' and perform a couple of experiments relating to heat. Starting

10/13, we will test our senses by playing 'sound BINGO' and doing some baking to check out our taste buds. Yum! The week of 10/19 will find us practicing our manners...please/thank you, shaking hands, and sharing with our friends, etc. I have several age appropriate books that we will read during circle time that will lead us into some "polite" discussion.

Please don't forget that there is no school on Monday, October 12th in observation of Columbus Day or on Wednesday October 21st due to the PNS' staff attendance at the Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers' fall conference.

The month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween! Our celebration this year will be on Thursday, October 29th.

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 everyone else's costumes. (Please nothing scary and no full-faced masks...for safety's sake.) After the parade (which you are enthusiastically 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! Melissa has the trip all planned for Thursday, October 22nd. I look forward to this trip

every year! We'll take a hayride, play in the straw mazes, swing on the rope swings, slide on the HUGE slides, and drink apple cider at snack time. It's a wonderful day to be a kid...big or little! Please 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 am on "Nana duty" with my granddaughter on Thursday afternoons. But I would stay 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's "Star" day, I will put the decorated "Show'n Tell Can" on top of their cubbie. When you arrive the next morning, please place the 'chosen' item in the can. I encourage you to guide your child to choose something relating to our weekly theme or some seasonal item if at all possible. After playing in the Big Room right before dismissal, we always gather on the blue striped rug for storytime. This is also the time when we will have Show 'n Tell. 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 (my 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month also. We will 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. The kids LOVE Mondays and "their" letters!

September was a terrific month in the 3/4s class! It's obvious that these kids really like each other and play together with great enthusiasm! October is bound to be even more fun!

Happy Autumn!

Jane

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, Chair Stacker, Light Keeper, Time Tracker, Crowns of Kindness, action dice and art projects have all be very popular activities these first few weeks. This class also LOVES books and are a rapt audience whenever I read.

In the coming month we will add some new components to our school routines- Star of the Day and Letter of the Week. A letter will come home in your child's backpack on Friday, October 2 about the Star of the Day program. Letters of the Week activities will be included in the Coming Attractions email sent on Sunday evenings. We will introduce letters and early literacy skills in fun and engaging ways, including yoga letters, mystery box items and silly songs.

The week of October 5 we will be discussing **Fire Safety** in the context of **Our Senses** (see, hear and feel will take the spotlight first). We'll share our prior knowledge, explore our likes and dislikes, participate in science experiments and put our information into graphs. Our first Letter of the Week will be Ff. Next come **Apples and Pumpkins** as we finish up **Our Senses** with smell and taste. We'll discuss how these plants and fruits change throughout the seasons of the year. We'll be trying some apple and pumpkin foods as well as creating with them



in art projects. We'll have an Apple Day where each child explores the many aspects of their own personal apple! The Letter of the Week will be Pp. The week of October 19 we will be exploring **In the Woods** the leaves and trees of autumn as well as the animals that live there. Nature walks, tree hugging and outside observations in our journals will be featured. The Letter of the Week will be Ll. Finally, the week of October 26<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 for snack that day and we will write a class song about our Halloween costumes. The Letter of the Week will be Hh.

Important upcoming dates to remember: **October 7<sup>th</sup>** Fours Class Brunch, **October 9<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** No School, **October 30<sup>th</sup>** Halloween Parade.

Thanks for continuing to arrive on time, packing healthy snacks and water cups 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 [treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:treasurer@providencenurseryschool.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 Wednesday, but we do have space on 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 drop-in. Please contact Michelle Lewis [treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com) if you are interested in monthly enrollment.

## HALLOWEEN AT PNS

Probably the most exciting event at PNS this month if 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

This month we are excited to welcome back Wildlife Ambassadors at 11:30 October 28<sup>th</sup> in the Big Room. We will meet our backyard neighbors and learn about their natural history as well as ways humans can help and not hurt native wildlife. Kids will learn about survival skills of area wildlife, the impact of humans on our wild neighbors and the importance each of these

animals has to our ecosystem. There will be live critters for our little ones to meet as well. Parents, 2s, and CDO are invited to join in the fun.

Bryna Erickson  
PNS Enrichment Coordinator

## PARENT EDUCATION

Please join us for our first Parent Education talk of the school year on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Children are welcome to attend.

## *SAVE THE DATE*

Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

Contact Kristen Browning  
[parenteducation@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:parenteducation@providencenurseryschool.com) if you have any questions about this event.  
Thanks!

## 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 opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- We need a volunteer on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, to cover lunch bunch (from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.).
- We also need volunteers to sub for teachers and co-oping parents for one hour during the Parent Brunches (October 5, 6, 7, 8, and 14) from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.
- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Let Leah Fogarty know (or RSVP via the sign-

up genius) if you are attending the October Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 17th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All families are required to attend one Clean-Up Day per child enrolled. You will receive volunteer hours if you help out at an additional Clean-Up Day.

- Looking ahead to November, we will need parent volunteers to assist with our Picture Days on Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6.

Contact Leah Fogerty ([vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com)) if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these opportunities.

### **FUNDRAISING**

PNS night at Elevation Burger will be on Tuesday, October 6th. I will try to get paper flyers in the backpacks next week, but an electronic copy is also attached to this e-mail. Please spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors. Anyone who shows the flyer on the 6th, between 5 and 8pm will earn 10% of their sale for PNS.

Holiday Shop forms are due the week of October 12th. It is really helpful to get an early count for how many gifts we will need for the December event. This form was in your Back to School Night folder, but is also attached to the e-mail if you need it. Siblings and PNS alums are also welcome to come and shop! Please just fill out a separate form for each child (unless the children will be shopping together).

Fundraising Co-Chairs

Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda

[fundraising@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:fundraising@providencenurseryschool.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  
[newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com)

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Kristen Browning for doing a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions.

Thank you to Stephanie Jensen, Leah McAllister, Hien Phan 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 also to Stephanie Jensen for taking on the Social Committee Chair role.

Thank you to Heather Streckfus-Green for putting together the class placemats, setting up the Shutterfly sites, and organizing our school picture days.

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

Thank you to Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda for organizing our fundraisers for the first half of the year: apparel sales, Disney ticket sales, Barnes and Noble, and Holiday Shop. We are off to a great start!

# OCTOBER 2014

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 <b>Tuition Due</b>	2	3
<i>Note: Wednesdays in October, Soccer Sessions from 1:45pm-2:15pm</i>						
4 <i>National Frappe Day</i>	5 <i>Brunch CDO 9:30am-10:30am</i>	6 <i>Brunch 2s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	7 <i>Brunch 4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	8 <i>Brunch 3/4s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	9 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> FCPS Holiday <i>Leif Erikson Day</i>	10
11	12 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <b>Columbus Day</b> Board Meeting 7:30pm	13	14 <i>Brunch 3s 9:30am-10:30am</i>	15	16	17 <b>Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am</b>
18	19	20	21 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PACT Conference	22	23	24
25	26 <i>National Mincemeat Day</i>	27	28 <i>Wildlife Ambassadors Enrichment 11:30am</i>	29 <i>Halloween Parade 2s &amp; 3/4s 9:30am</i>	30 <i>Halloween Parade CDO, 3s, &amp; 4s 9:30am</i>	31