

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Saturday December 8th

Holiday Shop
10:00am-1:00pm

Monday December 10th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

Thursday December 13th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

December 24th thru January 4th

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Monday January 7th

School Resumes

Wednesday January 23rd

PNS Open House
10am-12pm

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



Dear PNS Families,

December brings with it so many reasons to celebrate! I am looking forward to the many wonderful traditions this time of year brings to PNS.

The Littlest Tree, our annual giving tree, will make its appearance in the Big Room soon. 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 giving our tree some much needed gifts for those less fortunate.

Another PNS holiday tradition of giving is our annual Holiday Shop on December 8th. 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 13th 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 has been sent out but if you have any questions, please feel free to send me a message at president@providencenurseryschool.org. 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 couple of 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,

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

Some of the most memorable joys of December and the holiday season are those that appeal to our senses: the jingling sounds of bells, scents of pine and cinnamon, bright colors of decorations and wrapping, comforting tastes of traditional holiday foods, and the feel of warmth when coming in from the cold. This month at preschool, we'll be using all of our senses as we learn about transportation, gingerbread, and holiday themes!

The week of December 3rd, our theme will be Land Transportation. I'll share some of my favorite books about cars, trucks, buses and trains, and we'll play with toy versions of all of these. We'll take some pretend trips, and talk about the ways that people travel to visit their families for the holidays. We'll also get out the bells and start jingling in Music, and play with scented playdough.

The following week, beginning December 10th, our theme will be Gingerbread. My classes will get to know the story of the Gingerbread Man very well,

as we read the book, and retell and act out the story together. We'll make gingerbread-themed art, and use toy gingerbread boys and girls for some counting practice.

Boxes make great tools for learning and play; for our Holiday theme starting on the 17th, we'll use boxes to identify square shapes and compare their different sizes. In the Big Room, we'll have scissors and other art supplies to practice wrapping and opening. Albert, our stuffed lion mascot, will demonstrate polite words for giving and receiving gifts.

Our Winter Break will be the two weeks of the 24th and 31st. Whether your plans for the holidays include travel, hosting, or relaxing at home, I wish you all a wonderful time with your families and friends!

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. The President will send an email alert 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 Keep inTouch email notification system.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays

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

December is here! This is a very busy month both at the Bianchetti house as well as at PNS. This month we'll continue exploring with our Senses as well as getting ready for the Holiday season.

The week of December 3rd, we'll be talking about **Shapes**. We'll go on a shape hunt, make sculptures of shapes, and create patterns of shapes. We'll be talking about both the 2-D shapes, but additionally we'll be talking 3-D shapes as well. The most important question to ask children about shapes, is *not* the name of the shape, but asking them *how* we know it is a certain shape. "This is a triangle. How do we know it's a triangle?" We'll spend a lot of time noticing corners, sides and developing those one-to-one counting skills.

Next we'll be talking about what the local **Animals** do **in Winter** during the week of Dec 10th. Hopefully we'll be able to go outside for some nature walks to observe the birds and squirrels who are busy scavenging for food. We'll make a bagel bird feeder for the local birds and squirrels. Additionally, we'll talk about the animals who hibernate in the winter, like bears, frogs and ladybugs and those who go away to somewhere warm like geese and butterflies. We'll fly like birds, lumber like bears and scurry like squirrels. We'll have lots of animals for which to build habitats, like trees, caves and ponds. We'll also see how many bears we can fit in a fuzzy mitten! Additionally, we'll be making some surprise gifts for the upcoming Holidays.

Our final week before Winter Break, we will focus on the many **Holidays** celebrated in our homes (not just the ones in December). We'll be talking about family traditions and the idea of "giving." 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 finishing up those surprise gifts. **Please let me know if you anticipate being absent this week, so we can be sure to get gifts home for the Winter Break.**

In the spirit of giving, each year PNS hosts the Littlest Tree on which the children can put donations of mittens, socks, hats, underwear in children sizes for kids in need. The tree is usually displayed in the Big Room, so we will probably (definitely) notice it as we play. More information can be found in the Newsletter.

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 finding their coats as well as putting on hats and gloves. **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 I-o-n-g break when you return on January 7th!

Ms. Ryan



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 my special preschool friends. 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.

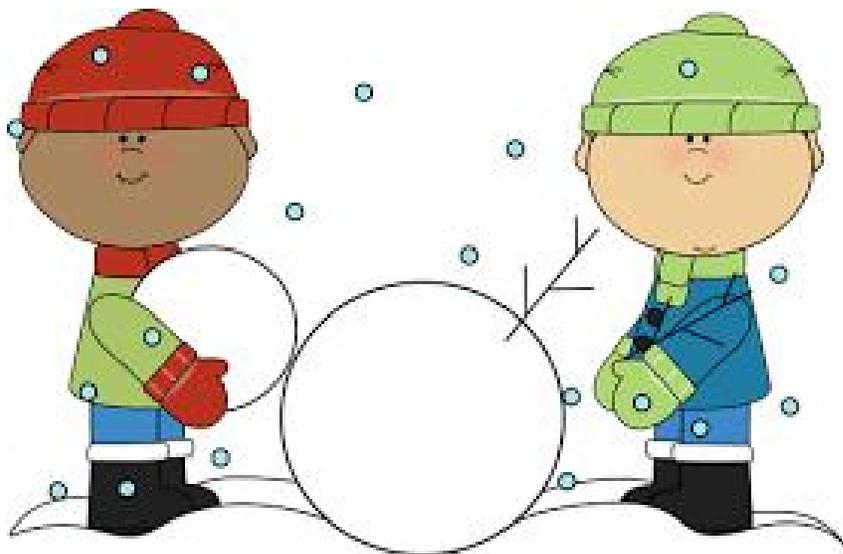
Starting on 12/3, we will be moving into the world of hibernating, migrating, and adapting animals. Owls, bears, raccoons, etc. will all be the topic of our circletimes. I bet we'll even "Go on a Bear Hunt" once or twice during the week. The Gingerbread Man will be our focus during the week of December 10th. We will compare/contrast several different stories and books about that ornery little cookie guy. We might even do some baking and decorating! Holiday traditions will dominate discussion time during our last week of school in 2018 (12/17). We'll also spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. What a month! I'm tired already. ☺

Remember that the PNS Holiday Shop is Saturday, December 8th...and I heard a rumor that Santa will even be making an appearance for photographs. Don't miss it! Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be Thursday, December 13th...and it's at my house! Yay! So look for your invitation and I hope to see you there! Our ornament exchange is always one of the holiday season's highlights!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be S(12/3), D(10), and a Review Day(12/17). 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.

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

Jane



Can you believe that December is here? Winter will be here before you know it. Our themes in the 4's class for December will be: Transportation, Reindeer, Holiday Symbols, and Gingerbread. We will not be introducing any new letters but reviewing them, playing lots of Math games, doing more Science Experiments and crafts.

For Transportation we will talk about modes by air, land and water. For Science we will have ramps/inclined planes and put different materials on them to see if the cars go slower, faster, etc. We will be making boats that float too. For Reindeer we will be making an ornament, reindeer food, and another Sink or Float experiment with things such as nuts, pine branches and cranberries. For Holiday Symbols we will talk about Kwanzaa, Mrs. Wallace will show us how to play with dreidels, we will make sparkle wreaths and we will make an edible winter tree. For the Gingerbread theme we will play a numbers game, do gingerbread graphing, a red and green lava lamp experiment and making cute gingerbread men/women.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Fondly, Ms. Jenn

THE GIVING TREE



Hello Friends,

I am very busy packing and making my plans to visit Providence Nursery School again this year. I look forward to collecting all of the wonderful new hats, mittens, gloves, and most especially the underwear that you will be bringing to me. 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

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Emailing the school or class Google group 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 PNSAll. 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.

TUITION REMINDER

As a reminder, tuition is due on the first of the month. After the 10th of the month, a \$25 late fee will be applied.

PARENT EDUCATION

On December 12th and 13th, Skill Builders will be at PNS to conduct speech/language and sensory/visual motor screenings. Speech pathologists and occupational therapists will perform the screenings, respectively.

These screenings are optional and are parent-initiated. The cost of the speech/language screening is \$15. The sensory/visual motor screening is \$15, if the child is also receiving the speech/language screening, or \$20, if performed alone. Forms are due December 3rd.

ENRICHMENT

On Wednesday, December 19th we have "Reptiles Alive" joining us to showcase some fun critters! The presentation is at 11:30am in the big room. CDO and 2s students are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult.

ENROLLMENT 2018-19

We have openings for 4 year olds for the 2018-2019 school year. Child must be 4 by September 30. We also have one opening in CDO for a child who is at least 2.5. Please spread the word to your friends, family, Mom groups, and play groups. (membership@providencenurseryschool.com) for more information.

Schedule of Registration Process

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the next school year. I'm going to send out 2019-2020 applications in December. Our in-house enrollment starts on Monday, December 17th and closes on Friday, January 11th at 12:30pm. Please see the schedule below and let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you, Kristie McCauley

December 17, 2018: Beginning of in-house enrollment for current PNS families.

January 11, 2019: In-house registration deadline. All application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm.

January 12, 2019: Beginning of enrollment for alumni and Church members.

January 18, 2019: Registration deadline for alumni and Church members.

January 23, 2019: Open House and beginning of enrollment for new families.

January 30, 2019: Registration deadline for new families.

Applications received after January 30th are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hi! Just a reminder to check your current status on volunteer hours and parent education credits. Please contact Stephanie Jensen at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org if you have any questions! Here are some upcoming opportunities:

- December 7-8: Help with Holiday Shop. See Sign-up Genius to volunteer.
- December 10, 7:30pm: Board Meeting. Earn 1 hour of volunteer credit
- Maintenance projects - Our maintenance committee has a few projects around the school we could use help with outside of maintenance days:
 - Power-washing and staining the deck by the Shed
 - Power-washing the playground equipment
 - Filter (pea-gravel and debris) and remove roots in the outdoor sandbox sand

If you are interested in any of these projects, please contact our Maintenance Chair at chavasy@aol.com to discuss.

- Our next maintenance/clean-up day is scheduled for January 12th, 2019.
- Our annual Open House is scheduled for January 23rd from 10am-12pm. We will need help giving tours to prospective families, childcare for parents giving tours, and greeters. Check Sign-up Genius for more information and to sign up!
- We would like to form a small committee to review our current website and make recommendations for content, redesign, features, etc., starting in December. Please contact Stephanie Jensen if you are interested in participating. It will involve some meetings (schedule to be determined) and some work on your own time.

You will receive volunteer credit for your participation, amount to be determined.

Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year. Each co-oping family 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. We encourage all families to have half their volunteer hours completed by the end of December. Your current hours status is available via the spreadsheet link sent via email earlier this year. If you are having difficulty completing volunteer or parent education hours, please contact Stephanie Jensen for assistance.

FUNDRAISING

The Barnes and Noble fundraiser was a big success. We were happy to see so many families there, both current and former! Thank you to all who came out to support the school, and those who volunteered their time. A huge thank you to the teachers who came out to do storytime!

PNS Holiday Shop is coming up on Saturday, December 8. Thanks to everyone who has signed up to help already! We still need a lot of volunteers to help make this event happen. The sign-up link is: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70A0D4CA4A828A6FA7-holiday>

Be on the lookout for a sign-up for family photos and photos with Santa! We can't wait to see you there!

Let us know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Emily Gillotte (emedee@hotmail.com)

Sara Levy (saralevy81@yahoo.com)

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,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Zeina Frayha and Tarek Saad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills and making sure our first-aid kits are well-stocked. Thank you to our field trip coordinators –Lori Thomas (3s), Julie Agar (3/4s), and the Beebout Family (4s) for setting up the first of the school's field trips. Thank you to all who attended our October Cleaning and Maintenance day and to Charles Havasy for leading the maintenance tasks. Thank you to the Gunlicks Family

for leading the cleaning effort. Thank you to our teachers for the great presentations and discussions at the class brunches last month. Thanks to our class reps and parents for coordinating and providing the refreshments at the brunches. Thanks to the parents who subbed during brunches: Beth Ann Clare, Theresa Gunlicks, Meg Krug, Jim Maiwurm, and Nari Kim. Thanks to Emily Gillotte and Sara Levy for organizing our fall fundraisers. Thank you to all those who made sure there were plenty of smiles during picture days and to the Streckfus-Green Family for leading the effort!

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 have more this Thanksgiving. Please remember the food pantry is always in need and accepts donations all year round.

Thank you to the teachers, aides and parents who assisted with our Thanksgiving Feast!



DECEMBER 2018

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
Happy Holidays!						1 Tuition Due
2 1 st day of Hanukkah	3	4	5	6	7	8 Holiday Shop 10:00am-1:00pm
9	10 Board Meeting 7:30pm	11	12	13 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Start of Winter Break 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 New Year's Eve					

School Resumes Monday
January 7th

Save the Date: PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 23, 2018

10am - 12pm

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors!