

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Monday February 11th
 Board Meeting
 7:30pm

Monday February 18th
 NO SCHOOL
 President's Day

Saturday, March 2nd
 VIP Day
 10:00am

Monday March 11th
 Annual Membership Meeting &
 Board Meeting
 7:30pm

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



I hope everyone is keeping warm and finding ways to stay active and entertained with so much inside time! Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is in full swing. A BIG thanks to Kristie McCauley and all the wonderful volunteers, we had a very successful Open House. A thank you to the teachers as well. I know many parents enjoyed the opportunity to see our students playing and learning. Though the Open House is over, enrollment for new families will continue throughout the spring. The number one way new families hear about PNS is through word of mouth. Please spread the word about our school!

There are some important dates coming up this month. PNS will be closed on Monday, February 4 due to an FCPS Staff Development Day. The slate for next year's officers will be presented at this month's board meeting on Monday, February 11th and PNS will be closed for the President's Day holiday on February 18th.

Finally, looking ahead to March, on Saturday, March 2nd, PNS will hold its annual VIP Day. Maybe Dad, Grandma, Grandpa or a favorite aunt, uncle, or neighbor would like to visit the preschool with your child? VIP Day is the perfect time for a family member or special friend who normally doesn't get to see your child at school to visit. Also, please make sure to put Monday, March 11th on your calendar. That is the night of our annual membership meeting, attendance is required for all families. We will vote on the officers for the next year. The vote takes just a few minutes and the monthly board meeting follows, you are welcome to earn a volunteer hour by staying for the meeting.

Thank you all for making PNS a wonderful place for our kids to fall in love with school! Please feel free to let me know if I can be of any assistance throughout the rest of the school year.

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

Three... two... one... blast off! We start off the month of February in the Twos and CDO classes with a favorite theme for imaginative play: Air and Sea Transportation. We'll read about all kinds of boats, ships, planes, and space vehicles, count down and blast off in Music, and experiment with boats and other objects in water.

The whole school will be getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day on the week of the 11th, so everything -- the music, art, books, and even the playdough -- will remind us of valentines! One interesting thing about valentines is how they travel from one person to another, so we'll also learn about mail and the post office. The Big Room will become a postal center, with a sorting area, mailboxes, mail bags, and lots of pretend mail to prepare and deliver. At the end of the week each student will have a chance to deliver real valentines to their friends' mail bags. Stay

tuned for details about this in your weekly class email.

The week of the 18th is Community Helpers week. Who drives a red truck, wears a helmet, and sprays water to put out a fire? We'll play some guessing games about jobs, try on some different work hats, and play with toy people and vehicles to learn about some of the helping jobs in our community.

In the final week of February, our topic will be Insects. We'll learn and act out some classic insect-related songs and rhymes, practice using magnifying glasses to examine small objects, and find out some interesting facts about insects.

I'm looking forward to this fun month of preschool with all of your little valentines!

Ms. Auten



Despite our missed days due to weather and holidays, we've been playing and working hard in the 3s class. We've transitioned right back into the routine with familiar friends as well as some new faces. February brings feelings and friendship and then we're on to one of the most popular preschool themes, Transportation! We'll be tackling a total of three weeks of transportation as we explore air, land and sea. We'll also be adding in lots of nursery rhymes and rhyming activities to make up for our missed Nursery Rhymes unit in January.

First up we're going to be talking about **Feelings**. We address these emotional words every day at school and I am sure you are dealing with them everyday at home as well! This week we'll be focused on looking at our faces as we show different feelings, "reading" other people's faces and practicing matching feeling words with expressions. We will discuss how our bodies feel with different emotions and practice some calm breathing and counting techniques to use with our strong emotions. Bartholomew will be spending some time with us as we role play asking for turns and telling friends to "stop please". We'll be creating a bulletin board of our "Many Colored Days" and attempting to paint how different music selections make us feel. Some of my favorite books will be read this week as we see how some characters in books deal with their feelings as well. Remember, all feelings are allowed and ok. We feel a range of emotions all day long and an important step in growing our emotional development is to recognize our feelings and be able to verbalize them.

We'll continue with Feelings into the week of February 11th as we prepare to celebrate **Friendship** as well as Valentine's Day at PNS. We'll decorate some mail bags for valentine deliveries at table work time, create Love Bug pattern art and dance and march with heart shapes. Circle Time will have us doing some activities as a team as well as with partners, including some sequencing and matching activities. The Big Room will have a Post Office theme for creative play.

The week of February 18th we start talking about Transportation, specifically **Transportation in the Air**. This will include airplanes, hot air balloons, helicopters, and even rocket ships. We'll blast off into space on a "Rocketship Run," we'll make things move by blowing on them and we'll even see a balloon rocket travel. We'll use our developing scissor skills to cut out an airplane to decorate and then throw at targets for tablework. Engineering rocket ships out of shapes, creating sky collages and blowing paint will all be part of our process art this week.

Transportation on Land is the following week as we talk cars, buses, skates, scooter, bikes, and of course, trains. We'll be washing cars covered in shaving cream and using cars to paint on paper. We'll move our bodies in lots of different ways to travel around the room and we'll even attempt to follow the directional signs to different places in the Big Room, just like cars driving on the road. Cooperation will be the key to successfully move our class train using connected hula hoops and we'll discuss forces as we push some scooters around as well. At table work, we'll count and sequence as we design and plan a new type of vehicle!

I so enjoy my days with all my friends in the 3s class. They have come so far in terms of social play, using their words to express themselves and in remembering the class routine and rules. Our Morning Meetings are full of activities and they have lengthened the amount of time they can wait for turns and listen to others. While this age has its challenges as the children experience such rapid growth and change in all areas of development, this is also such a fun age of discovery and curiosity and expression (both verbal and emotional!) Thank you for sharing these days with us!

Ms. Ryan

January has blown out of Fairfax and hopefully taken all those subfreezing temperatures with it! (And hopefully the rain showers will stay away until it's time for spring flowers...I'm tired of big, muddy Basset Hound footprints in my house!) ☺ I have also missed the playground! We sure had fun with snow and ice and all those dinosaurs, but now we are ready to jump into new and exciting adventures. February has many things going for it – it's short, has great themes, and has one of my favorite holidays in the middle of the month! <3

This group of kids is charged up and ready to go...and Science Week is up first on February 2nd! I have learned that this group adores experiments and learning “why” things happen. So we will have fun ‘doing’ scientific stuff. You know....messy, gooey science fun. Who knows what will happen in class each day? You will have to ask your child that week and find out.

Next we'll have a week celebrating friendship! There will be many Valentine activities...special headbands, heart decorations, and beaded patterns. The class will have time to play in the post office dramatic play area in the Big Room and we'll learn several new fingerplays about friendship and being a friend. We will exchange Valentine cards on Thursday, February 14th. On that day, I would like each child to bring a valentine for every member of the class. And may I ask a big favor of each of you? Please “address” each envelope with BOTH the child's name and colored symbol. That way all of the children will be able to “mail” the valentines to his/her friends...all by themselves. (You know me and my hope of independence for all!) Kids love this activity and it makes Valentine's Day very special. (I will send home a list of symbols soon.) Would anyone like to send in a special Valentine snack for the class to share? It doesn't have to be

elaborate...we will think it's special no matter what it is! ☺

The week of February 18th will find us discussing the workers who help us in our neighborhood. There will be lots of talking about “I want to be a (fill in the blank) when I grow up!” I wonder how many doctors, police officers, vets, or bus drivers there will be in this class?

Dr. Seuss will be our honorary guest during the week of 2/25. We will honor his memory by exploring several of his books...including my favorite, Green Eggs and Ham. Of course, we'll do some cooking on that day! I also have a couple of other exciting projects to go along with other Dr. Seuss books...so stand by! We will also be working on our rhyming skills throughout the week and we'll write our own class Rhyme Time book.

The Monday 4s gang will be working with the letters V(2/11), and R(2/25). You should hear this group as they start to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit!! Mondays are definitely fun days!

The class really has enjoyed the new check-in procedures. They always give the ‘Question of the Day’ great thought...and then happily go check out what morning work awaits them at the Window Table. This month I will introduce “Going on the Bell” Wednesdays...details to follow. And remember – no school on February 4th (FCPS holiday) and February 17th (Presidents' Day).

Are you ready - it's going to be a LOVE-ly month!

Jane

January was a busy month in the 4s class, and February will be no different!

On Friday mornings beginning this month, the class will be “going on the bell.” This is a small group rotational activity in which the children will be placed in a random group to move between different stations for a designated amount of time. They will move and work beyond their comfort zones, very much like what happens during center time in many kindergarten classes. Stay tuned to our weekly emails for more details.

The first week of February (2/5) brings more winter-themed activities. Specifically, we'll learn about Arctic and Polar animals, and the letter “P”.

The following week (2/12), we'll celebrate Valentine's Day and talk about Feelings. The letter

that week will be “V”. We will be exchanging Valentine's in the classroom, so be sure to have enough for each child (8 total). They should be ‘addressed’ so the children can ‘mail’ them to their classmates. If you'd like to provide a Valentine's Day treat for the class, please let me know... I'm sure the children would love it!

The next week (2/19) is all about Robots, and we'll review the letter “R”. The last week of the month (2/26) we'll have fun with Dr. Seuss, and the letter “Q”.

Please remember to send hats and mittens in with your children – as long as the weather permits, we will go outside to the playground.

Mrs Wallace & Ms Kelly



SAVE THE DATE FOR PNS SUMMER CAMP!

May 28 - June 7

More details soon!

KEEP PNS IN THE LOOP

Have you moved? Changed your cell phone number or work phone? Please keep in mind that these small changes may affect the school's ability to reach your family in case of emergency. If you or your spouse -- or if anyone listed as an emergency contact has new information -- please let PNS know. Contact Laura Heim, VP Forms, via email or at forms@providencenurseryschool.com with updates.

VCPC AWARDS!

The Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council will be accepting nominations for VCPC member schools' parents whose commitment over the past year has been superior. Perhaps you can think of someone whose contribution has been substantial and nominate him or her for this award. Nomination forms will be available on the sign-in tables or by messaging Jennifer Wiskochil at president@providencenurseryschool.org.

PARENT EDUCATION

Parent ed activities are currently being planned, so keep an eye on your email for further details.

ENRICHMENT

February 6th - The One Man Band will be joining us for an exciting show! While strumming his guitar, he will be playing harmonicas, kazoos and whistles...tapping his feet on the drums and cymbals...all while singing and yodeling away! The kids will get to stand up, dance, and play along too!

February 20th - Groovy Nate is back to put on a reggae/hip hop spin on children's songs and rhymes. This interactive show will feature fun musical

instruments with puppet skits and is sure to be a GROOVY good time!

Wonderful Wednesday presentations are at 11:30 am in the Big Room. CDO and 2s students are always welcome with an accompanying adult.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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. You must also attend one Clean-Up Day per enrolled child.

- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Cover Lunch Bunch on February 6th, 12:30-1:30pm.
- Assist our Bulletin Board/Art Show coordinator with the March art show at Kings Park Library by preparing and hanging the kids' artwork. Sign-up is forthcoming!

Please check out Sign-up Genius to volunteer. Contact Stephanie Jensen (via vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org) if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these opportunities.



FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee is working on soliciting items for our raffle on March 28th. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about businesses that we could approach, or if you would be willing to drop off or mail our form letter. The letter has contact info for the committee - you do not need to use your own name or phone number. E-mail Sara Levy if you are interested and she will send the letter to you.

We are working on arranging a couple restaurant nights for the remainder of the school year. If you have suggestions on places to contact please let us know!

Sara Levy saralevy81@yahoo.com

Emily Gillotte emedee@hotmail.com

Fundraising/Social Committee Co-Chairs

PNS FEEDBACK!

We received feedback from Leah Peralta regarding our forms:

"I noticed on the registration application that the headings for parent contact info. are titled Father info and Mother Info. Could we just change to Parent/Guardian Info? Do we have any same-sex couples or even kids in non-traditional family structures (grandparent etc.)? I know it's a small thing but think it'd be an easy update and would show the school's commitment to inclusivity for both families and kids."

Response: Great idea! We have updated the forms on our website to read "Parent/Guardian". Also, as we move to online registration and enrollment, it should read "Parent/Guardian#1 and #2". .

Thanks for the feedback, Leah!

EDITOR'S NOTE

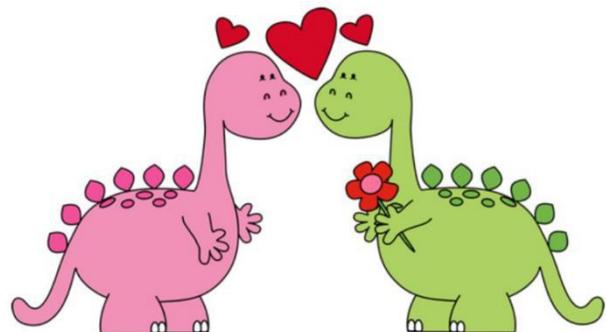
Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the March Newsletter please submit it by February 20th. If you have any suggestions or things you would like to see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Kirsten Lockhart, Jose Peralta, Jim Maiwurm, Julia Kale, Kathy Brooks, Jane Millward, Jennifer Wiskochil and Sara Levy for being a part of the hiring committee! Congratulations to Kelly Volciak on being selected as the new 4s teacher for the 2019-2020 school year!

Thank you to Barbara Rosand for organizing this year's holiday party and to the Millward family for hosting. Thanks to all who donated to the Littlest Tree project. Thank you to the Class Reps: Melissa Ahern, Hien Phan, Maliha Ahmad, Erin Meyer, and Amanda Longstreet for organizing the class gifts for teachers and aides and also for finishing the spring co-op schedules. Thank you to Kristie McCauley for her hard work on registration and the upcoming Open House. Thank you to Stephanie Jensen for putting out ice melt on the walkways after the winter weather last week!



FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1 Tuition Due	2
3	4 NO SCHOOL FCPS Staff Development Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Board Meeting 7:30pm	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		