

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

THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 7th
School Resumes

Monday January 14th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January 15th thru 17th
Parent Teacher Conferences
3/4s & 4s

Saturday January 19th
Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday January 21st
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 23rd
Open House 10am-12pm
School in session

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

Welcome 2019! Happy New Year to all and welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday.

This start of the year is a very busy time for us at PNS. We jump back into school on **Monday, January 7** and enrollment for the **2019-2020** school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **Friday January 11, 2019**. If you are enrolling your children in PNS next year it is essential that you do not miss this deadline as we close in-house registration and begin accepting applications from alumni and church families.

Our annual Open House will be held on **Wednesday, January 23rd**. School is in session during this time so it is a great chance for prospective families to see PNS in action. The open house is also a great volunteer opportunity. Please consider volunteering your time to give tours, answer questions or watch children for other volunteers. It is a very busy morning and we need a lot of help. To volunteer contact Kristie McCauley, VP of Enrollment or Stephanie Jensen, VP Admin.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 21** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and closed on **Friday, January 25**. We will also be closed on **Monday, February 18**.

Teacher conferences are coming up this month as well for the 3s, 3/4s and 4s classes. This is a great chance to learn more about your kids. Look for sign-up directions from your teachers.

At the December board meeting, our summer camp director was announced. Thank you to Meg Krug for taking on the job. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment flyers will be out next month!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2019!

Take care,

Jennifer



CDO & 2's

Happy new year! I hope everyone has been having a wonderful winter holiday, with time to rest, celebrate, and play!

When we return to school on January 7th, our theme for the first two weeks will be **Winter**. The Twos and CDO classes will read and sing about winter clothing, and practice matching colors and patterns with mittens. We'll talk about winter activities, learn a chant about sledding that demonstrates "up" and "down," and use our movements and voices to practice "up" and "down" at Music time. We will also go outside to make observations about the weather, use our senses to examine ice, and create art with ice.

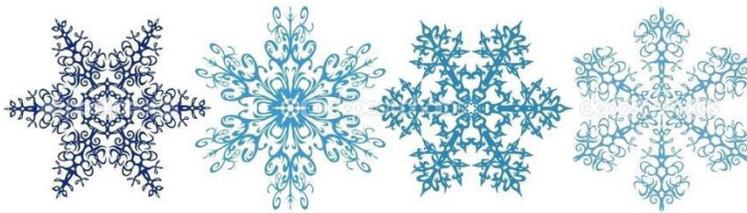
For the week of January 21st, the whole school will be learning about **Dinosaurs**, so there will be dinos *everywhere!* We will dig for bones, make dinosaur footprint art, read and sing about dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp and roar.

The theme for our final week of January will be **Bears**. Real bears hibernate in winter, and bears in books are known to do a wide variety of other things, so we'll have plenty to read and pretend about! I have many favorite books about bears to share, including the fairy tale of Goldilocks and the three bears.

Even when it's cold outside, the Twos and CDO classes will play outdoors when we can, adjusting our schedule as needed to keep the balance between getting enough exercise and keeping little fingers and toes comfortable inside their mittens and shoes. Please be sure to dress your child for the weather, including gloves or mittens, and sturdy shoes for running and playing. If it is too cold or unpleasant outside, we will head upstairs to the gym to run races and play.

Wishing you a great start to 2019,

Jessie



PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 23rd 10am - 12pm

**Please let your family, friends, and
neighbors know!**

January... a month that usually has me longing for warmth and a beach somewhere. Whatever the weather might be outside though, in the 3s class we'll be having fun all month long.

Our first week back, the week of January 7, we'll be talking about **Winter Weather and Play**. We'll focus on matching mittens, creating and dressing up snow people and observing the weather each day. We'll explore the cold, melt ice with salt water and will even create some "icy" pictures. We'll be doing wax-resist painting to discover white drawings hiding in plain view. This is where we will talk about Jan Brett's book, The Mitten. I wonder how many bears we can fit into a fuzzy mitten? We might even discover some "snow" in the Science Center to feel and smush and will get a chance to "ice skate" around the Big Room!

The second week of January is the beginning of our two week **Dinosaur** adventure! I know my friends will enjoy moving and acting like friendly dinosaurs. We'll have felt sets to explore, dinosaur fossils to discover in the sand box and dinosaur footprints to create. We'll compare different dinosaur features, graph our favorite dinosaurs and sing songs about dinosaurs. There will be plenty of dino playsets available in the Big Room and in the classroom. **No school Monday, January 21st or Friday, January 25th.**

Starting January 28th, we'll be talk about **Nursery Rhymes**. We'll focus on the very beginning of our rhyming skills as well as our ever growing number sense. Nursery Rhymes we'll explore include "Jack and Jill", "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe", "Little Miss Muffet", "Baa Baa Black Sheep", "Humpty Dumpty" & "Hot Cross Buns". Lots of opportunities to move our bodies in different ways, create art, sing songs and finger plays and do a little acting. We will "build" walls for Humpty Dumpty as we explore the ideas of balance and gravity and we'll definitely put Humpty back together again! We also have several sets of finger puppets that fit this theme, allowing for some literacy play.

Around the middle of the month, once we are back into the swing of our schedule, we will return to small group "table work" once a week with Ms. Ryan. These activities help the children increase their ability to focus, follow simple directions and participate in a fine motor activity of someone else's choosing. We will continue to build the complexity of the activities as the year progresses.

Don't forget to include both Ms. Emmy and I in any communications regarding drop-off or pick-up changes each day as well as when your child will be absent from school. As always, please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Ryan



Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope all the three/fours and their families had a memorable, restful break and that everyone's special wishes came true! Now that winter has settled in around us, it's time to get back to school. My planbook is full of ideas to help us beat the cold-weather blues.

During the first week of January, we will have lots of winter excitement as each child discovers what makes winter so unique...and FUN! We'll have the opportunity to create some pretty cool "snowy" art. (I hope you like glitter! LOL) We'll also concentrate on learning the difference between mittens and gloves! Then we're off to talk about polar animals (1/14). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. And our table work will be very wild and exciting!!! Dinosaurs will roam PNS beginning on the 22nd. Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! How many types of dinosaurs can you name? I bet your kids will be able to identify many types before the month is over! Then we will don our paleontologist hats starting on the 28th as we discover and learn about dinosaur bones and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to painting our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high. There is no more popular unit in a preschooler's educational experience!

There are several dates that need to be written in your new 2019 calendars. Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 16th and Thursday, January 17th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, I will send out a Sign-Up Genius for you to make your choice of conference time. I will also be sending out a note asking if there is anything specific that you would like to discuss during our time together. Also remember that there is no school on the 21st(MLK Day)...an FCPS holidays. We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 23rd during the PNS Open House. The Open House will be going on all around us, but we will be having a regular school day. And please remind your friends to come see us on the 23rd...we like to welcome new families to our school!

When you coop this month, you will notice several classroom management changes. At the beginning of the month, the sign-in board will just have the name tags to move as a check-in. Then the BIG transformation will occur about mid-month. The sign-in board will disappear totally and a new response board will take its place. Every morning a "Question of the Day" will be presented...and the kids will each get to answer it by moving their name to their chosen

response. This activity serves two purposes...each student must recognize his/her name to "vote" a response, and then the child must make an individual decision about a specific question. I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time first thing in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the cabinet!) instead of me always making the choices for them. They will take the toy to the table or floor to play...and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. The Monday gang will do this first for a week or two, and then I will count on them to model the correct behavior for the rest of the group. It is one more way for this group to become even more independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how proficient these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of each of them! Children can get frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/or herself when leaving home. (Prints and solids look lovely together, don't they? I heard that this is this season's fashion statement!) Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!!! (Flip, flop...over the top!) Zippering a coat is also within reach of this age group...so we're encouraging it, too! Some in the gang have already conquered this skill...and are now busy helping their friends get ready to go outside. Miss Kelly and I do so appreciate our helpful friends!

Calendar time is a favorite time of day...the kids are really getting into counting and figuring out the monthly pattern. Patterning is such an important pre-math skill. So when your child is looking for something to do one day, give them a handful of buttons, or coins, or whatever is handy...and ask them to make a pattern. We make it fun at school...bet you can, too! ☺

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters B(1/7), W(1/14), and D(1/28). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are starting to emerge! And they are having lots of FUN doing it! Plus every member of this gang is attempting to write their name...an awesome achievement! I am so proud of each one of them!

WOW...what a month! As usual, if anyone has any concerns or questions concerning your child, please don't hesitate to call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is! I'm looking forward to conferences! ☺ Stay tuned...

Jane

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break, and the children are excited to be back. I'm looking forward to hearing all about what they did!

There will be some schedule and classroom changes starting in January, which I detailed in the Google message to you. In short, the children will answer a "Question of the Day" each morning before checking in, and we will be discussing their answers during circle time. I have added a few jobs, and changed some of the existing ones. The children will also be able to choose which toys they want to play with, bring them to the floor or a table, and return them when they are done. During snack time, they will compose the daily message, which will let you know what they've done each day when you pick them up. I'm sure they will adjust quickly to this new routine.

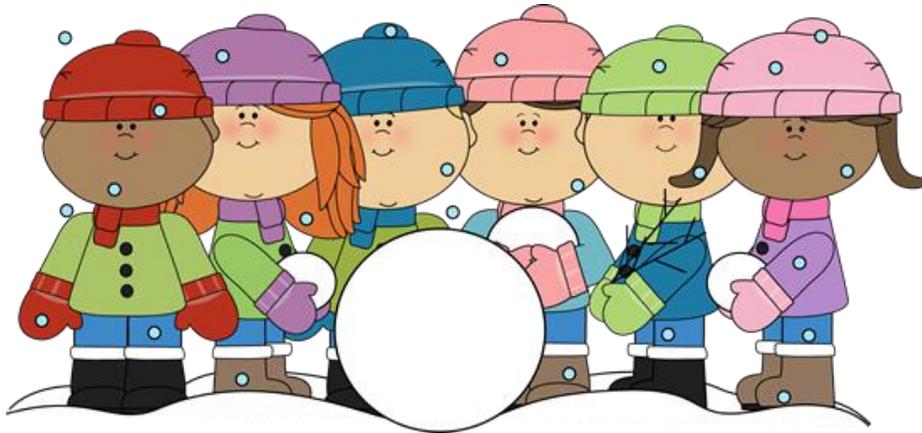
January begins with a review of the letters we learned last year. We'll decorate the classroom with words that begin with them, search for 'hidden' letters, and create some letter crafts. They'll also decorate their own circle time spots.

The following week (1/15), will focus on animals in winter, and the letter "W". Next (1/22) is a theme we all love – Dinosaurs – and the letter "D". The last week (1/27) we'll learn all about Space, and the letter "X".

Important dates to remember: **Tuesday, Jan. 15th** Parent/Teacher conferences with Ms Jenn. **Wednesday, Jan. 23rd** PNS Open House – we will have a regular school day. **Friday, Jan. 25th** No School (FCPS Teacher Workday).

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



SUMMER CAMP

PNS offers an optional summer camp program following the regular school year. Look for enrollment flyers soon!

LOST AND FOUND

Please remember to check the lost and found for any missing items. The box is located inside door 1, on top of the cubbies.

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 the PNSAll Google 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

On Wednesday, January 9th at 11:30am we will have a fire safety puppet show in the big room. CDO and 2s students are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult.

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 (Check Sign-up Genius to volunteer!):

- Attend our cleanup/maintenance day on January 19th at 8:30-11:30

- Attend board meeting on Monday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. (counts as one hour)
- Volunteer at the PNS Open House on Wednesday, January 23, from 10 a.m. until noon. Childcare is provided for volunteers. There are volunteer spots for tour guides, check-in, and childcare.
- We need volunteers for our nominating committee to determine the 2019-20 board slate. It will involve attendance at 2 meetings to be determined by committee member schedules.
- We need volunteers for our hiring committee for a new 4s teacher
- We need a volunteer for lunch bunch on February 6th, 12:30-1:30p.
- We still have some maintenance projects available. Please contact Charles Havasy at chavasy@aol.com if you are interested in helping out!

Reminder: Being up to date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Please check your status on the hours tracking sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jensen at vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

We have a few projects around the school with which we could use help:

- Painting fun murals on the walls (some artistic skills needed)
- 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

ENROLLMENT

Just a reminder that 2019-2020 applications are due Friday, January 11th!

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.*

Mid-February 2019: All families are notified of their enrollment status (acceptance or wait list)

FUNDRAISING

Holiday Shop was a great success! Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it happen!

We plan on doing a restaurant night sometime in the next month or two- be on the lookout for more details!

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions!

Emily Gillotte emedee@hotmail.com

Sara Levy saralevy81@yahoo.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Fundraising/Social Committee: Emily Gillotte, Sara Levy and the Rogers and Paldao families for all of their work leading the Barnes and Noble book fair. Thank you to Miss Ryan, Ms. Jenn, Ms. Auten, Mrs. Millward and Miss Allison for reading and sharing songs with us at Barnes & Noble day. Thank you to all who supported PNS through their shopping efforts both in store and online. Thank you to everyone who helped with Holiday Shop. Big thank yous to our Fundraising/Social Committee: Co-chairs Emily Gillotte and Sara Levy, plus the Rogers and Paldao families. Thank you to Jim Maiwurm, Erin Aji, Kate Stein, Leah Peralta, Lori Thomas and Lindsay O'Keefe for setting up, providing and overseeing crafts and organizing refreshments. Thanks also to all who helped to write labels, set up, shop with kids, provide refreshments, or clean up for Holiday Shop: Luisa Blythe, Karen Seeh, Merina Bajracharya, Rosemary Khan, Sean Heath, Melissa Johnston, Meg Krug, Jose Peralta, Lindsay O'Keefe, Kim Klein, Stephanie Kamath, Amanda Paldao, Julie Agar, Yukiko Chase, Lori Thomas, Nari Kim, Amy Rodgers, Nicole Dudish, Amanda Warren, Erin Meyer, Meredyth Havasy, and Elizabeth Boland. A huge thanks to Sean Heath for being Santa. A great big thank you to Kyle The Girl Photography for the awesome family and Santa pictures. A special thank you to our aides: Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Kelly and Miss Laura who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

JANUARY 2019

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
 <small>UsaHumor.com</small>		1 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i> Tuition Due	2 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i>	3 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i>	4 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i>	5
6	7 School Resumes	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Board Meeting 7:30pm	15 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences - 4s</i>	16 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences - 3/4s</i>	17 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences - 3/4s</i>	18	19 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
20	21 NO SCHOOL <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	22	23 <i>PNS OPEN HOUSE 10am-12pm Children Welcome</i>	24	25 NO SCHOOL <i>FCPS Holiday</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31		