

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 20031
www.providencenurseryschool.com

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Saturday March 2nd

VIP Day
10:00am-12:00pm

March 4th thru March 8th

Brunch for Parents
9:30am-10:30am

(see calendar for your class's specific day)

Monday March 11th

Board/Annual Membership Meeting
7:30pm
(this is a mandatory event)

Thursday March 28th

NO SCHOOL
PACT Conference

Friday April 5th

NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday

Monday April 8th

Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.

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



Happy March! I am really look forward to spring coming soon. Until then, we have a lot going on at PNS to keep us busy until warm weather arrives for good.

Our VIP Day takes place on Saturday, March 2 from 10am-12 noon at PNS. It is an excellent opportunity for grandparents, non co-oping parents, nannies or family friends to see the school and meet our teachers. We hope your child can bring their VIPs for this special day!

Class brunches will take place during the first week of March. Please see the school calendar for the date your class is scheduled. The brunches are just like those we had in the fall, a fun, casual way to learn more about your child's class and a topic of your teacher's choice as well to spend time socializing with other parents. All who attend will earn 30 minutes of parent education credit. And if you bring food or drinks for the brunch, you will earn volunteer time as well.

The next big March event is the mandatory membership meeting on the 11th. At least one parent from each currently enrolled family is required to attend. This meeting is mandatory. Our bylaws require a quorum to vote in officers for next year's board (formerly executive board members) and if we do not have enough families in attendance, we cannot conduct the vote. The vote will take place at 7:30 p.m. and will only take a few minutes. You are then free to leave but also welcome to stay for our monthly board meeting.

Some dates to remember: Saturday, March 16 is our next Cleaning & Maintenance Day~~ Thursday, March 28 will be our Spring Playdate and Fundraiser 10 am-12 pm.

As we begin to make preparations for the next school year, this is a great time to share your thoughts and ideas about PNS with current or future board members. Parent surveys will be sent out soon, and we appreciate your feedback on how you think we might be able to improve the school. The survey is an important tool for the board to implement changes and improve our school. We aim for 100% participation so be on the look-out for the email. As always, if you have ideas on ways we can make PNS even better, our board members are here and available to listen.

I hope everyone has a great March and a wonderful start to Spring!

Jennifer

CDO & 2's

It's March, and I'm starting to see early signs of spring and new growth outdoors -- and *indoors*, too: in the Twos and CDO classes, there are all kinds of pretend play interactions and wonderful conversations going on! Join me at our Class Brunch on the 4th (CDO) and 5th (Twos) to hear more about what's new at preschool.

In honor of this week of brunches, our first weekly theme this month will be **Breakfast**. We'll pretend and tell stories about cooking breakfast foods, and play with breakfast-themed toys and puzzles.

Our theme for the week of the 11th will be **Frogs**. We'll learn some interesting frog facts, pretend about the pond, sing froggy songs, do some hopping, and go on a search for "missing" frogs!

Spring is our third theme, just in time for the official start of spring. We'll learn about spring weather and sing rain songs. It's a great time to go out and look and listen for signs of spring, from new leaves and flowers to birds and worms. Please be sure that your child is dressed for walking and playing outdoors, and that he or she has a weather-appropriate change of clothes at school, in case of that other likely sign of spring: mud!

Our final theme of March will be the **Five Senses**. We'll play games and conduct scientific experiments to test our senses, and practice making observations about what we see, hear, smell, touch, and taste.

Also on the calendar for this last week of the month is a day off on Thursday, the 28th, for teachers to attend the PACT conference. In case you are curious, PACT stands for Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers, an umbrella organization of cooperative preschools in the DC metro area that supports cooperative preschools and holds educational conferences specifically relevant to our teachers.

I'm looking forward to all of the learning, experimenting, and exploring coming up in March, and to meeting with you at our class brunches to tell you all about it!

Ms. Auten



HUGE CHURCH WIDE RUMMAGE SALE

The Providence Youth Rummage Sale is just a few weeks away!

Here are the specifics ...

WHAT: Providence Youth Rummage Sale & Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Saturday, March 30 from 8 AM to 12 PM
Early shopping Friday, March 29 from 12-3 pm
(\$5 entrance fee)

WHERE: Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike,
Fairfax, VA 22031

WHY: All proceeds will support Providence youth activities.

QUESTIONS? Contact
rummagesale@providencechurch.org.

Donations accepted: Sunday, March 24th through
Thursday, March 28th from 5:00-7:30 pm.

(Please note: NO computer equipment, underwear, bed pillows, expired car seats, TVs, games/puzzles with pieces missing)

Oh, the unpredictable March weather! February has been pretty unpredictable already, so perhaps March will surprise us with sunshine and mild temperatures. We want to get outside to play!

At the beginning of March, we'll be finishing up our **Transportation** unit with **Air & Water**. That means exploring sink and float as well as gravity! We'll be building our own aluminum ships to see how much weight they can hold before they sink. The children will even bring home their own "boat in the ocean" water bottles! Art projects involving water are a sure thing and we'll even combine some "wind" force to move water for art. We'll be sure to catch up on our missed air and space activities, including a "Rocketship Run" and a balloon launch. Paper airplanes will certainly take to the air and the not often seen space play set will make an appearance.

The week of March 11th begins two weeks of **Construction & Tools**. These are the weeks where our love of construction vehicles will be fulfilled! We'll build bricks of sand and buildings of cardboard and tape. We'll dig, hoe and excavate. On the playground we'll feature those construction trucks we love so much and we'll use the tool benches and tool kits in the Big Room. Look for art created by smoothing "concrete" and sculptures made of various building supplies. We'll use our fine motor skills as well as our growing gluing skills to make a paper saw covered with shiny aluminum.

During these two weeks of Construction, we'll be squeezing in some of the missed **Nursery Rhymes** from January. This isn't as far removed from construction as you might think, since we'll be building a wall for Humpty Dumpty. There is even a book of "Construction Nursery Rhymes" based on the classics of Mother Goose we will

certainly explore. We'll focus on the very beginning of our rhyming skills as well as our ever-growing number sense. Lots of opportunities to move our bodies in different ways, create art, sing songs and finger plays and do a little acting. We also have several sets of finger puppets that fit this theme, allowing for some literacy play.

I look forward to meeting with you all for our Class Brunch on Friday, March 8th. This class is starting to get so big and mature, we'll have so many new areas of development to discuss and problem solve! The six months since school started have just flown by and Miss Emmy and I so truly enjoy the time we get to spend with your little ones! It's going to be a fun Spring as we continue to grow and learn together.

Ms. Ryan



As I write this mid-February, the weather outside is just plain unstable...and fickle! No one knows what is going to expect next...warm temps, snow, sleet, blue skies, etc. Ahh, it's all just is a mystery when we wake up every morning. But in the 3/4s' class, we just keep keepin'-on...and loving every day! ☺ March is going to be no different...full of excitement and lots of fun

First comes a week beginning March 4th filled with nothing but rhymes! Nursery rhymes will be front and center as we sing rhymes, dance rhymes, and even rhyme rhymes! Rhyming is a very important prereading skill – but it's such fun for the kids that they won't even know that they are learning! We will also do some problem solving for a few of the nursery rhyme characters, using our developing thinking skills. Good stuff going on here!

Then we will enter into the world of Fairy Tales during the week of 3/11 – 3/14. I am sure that princesses, princes, castles, and dragons will all be making appearances! There will be discussions of the elements that make up a fairy tale and our imaginations will be in overdrive! That is when we will write our own fairy tales in small groups...and then illustrate them, too! A truly magical week!!

Then comes one of my very favorite units...construction vehicles. During the week of March 18th, we'll be discussing all sorts of information about different types, and purposes, of construction trucks. We will also experiment with the forces of motion. There will be a very special field trip on Thursday, the 21st, to visit the Virginia Department of Transportation garage in Merrifield to see all the different types of vehicles used by the state. How cool is that? Julie will send us all the details as we get closer to THE day!

Next in line is a very interesting week (beginning 3/25) where we will be discussing all kinds of weather. We will do some weather related science experiments and talk about how weather conditions are the same/different. Rainbows will get a day all to themselves...sequencing those colors is always so entertaining

VIP Day is on the calendar for Saturday, March 2nd, from 10:00-12:00. I hope to see lots of my friends there that day with their special VIP. Our spring class brunch will be held on Thursday, March 7th from 9:30-10:30. Plan on joining me for another lively, sharing session! And please don't forget the General Membership Meeting that will be held on Monday, March 11th. Do plan to attend! The election of officers for next year's PNS Board will be held. Time at the meeting will be time well spent! There is no school on Thursday, March 28th ...all the teachers and aides will be at our spring PACT Conference learning lots of neat stuff. But there will be a FUN event held at PNS that morning...sponsored by the hard-working PNS Fundraising committee. You all need to be there!

The Fours' Gang is moving right along with their alphabet fun. The kids' listening skills are improving by leaps and bounds! They are all starting to really hear those initial sounds and think of words that start with our special letter. Letters this month will N (3/4), I (3/11), C/K (3/18), and Q/U (3/25).

It's going to be a marvelous March!

Jane

February certainly earned its reputation as the shortest month, with all those missed and shortened days! I hope we get more time with our friends in March – we have lots of fun things planned.

We'll be focusing on body parts, and the letter "B" the first week (3/5) of March. This class loves to do yoga, so we'll be talking about how we move our bodies, and what amazing things we can do. Look for something special in the hallway!

The following week (3/12), will be dedicated to construction, and the letter "C". Our budding engineers will work with different kinds of tools and materials to create a few structures.

We'll revisit feelings, which we discussed last month, and talk more about Manners and Kindness the next week (3/19). The letter of the week will be "K".

We'll spend the last week in March (3/25) having fun with Nursery Rhymes, and reviewing the letters we've learned so far this year.

Important dates to remember: **Saturday, March 2nd** VIP Day from 10am–2pm. This is a great opportunity for your children to show someone who doesn't usually come to the school what they're doing here. There will be lots of fun projects and toys in the Big Room. **Wednesday, March 6th** Parent brunch at 9:30am. **Thursday, March 28th** The teachers will be at a PACT Conference, so there is no school.

Mrs Wallace & Miss Kelly



Summer Camp

Join us for a summer camp experience for children ages 3-5 with songs, games, arts and crafts, and learning through play! Camp will be held May 28-June 7, 2019. Space is still available in both the 3s and 4/5s classes. Visit www.providencenurseryschool.com under the Summer Camp tab for more information.

Enrollment

We currently have open spots in CDO, 2s, and for a 3 in the 3/4s for the 2019-2020 school year. Please spread the word to your friends, family, neighbors, and Mom groups that may be looking for a preschool for the upcoming school year. They can email Kristie McCauley at membership@providencenurseryschool.org or visit the Enrollment Page on www.providencenurseryschool.com for more information.

Enrichment

On March 20th at 11:30 am, the team from Mad Science will present a spellbinding show introducing the students to the principles of vibration and chemistry! They will see potions mixed together to make a rainbow, hear dry ice talk, and see how chemistry can blow up a balloon. CDO and 2s students are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult.

Parent Education

Please save the date for a parent education opportunity - Kindergarten Readiness - Tuesday, March 5th, 7:00 PM. FCPS has graciously sent 2 liaisons discuss what to expect before and during your child's first year of public school.

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 emailing Jennifer Wiskochil at president@providencenurseryschool.org.

Come enjoy the PNS Art Show!

The PNS Art Show is held annually in the children's section of the **Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road**. For those of you new to PNS or unfamiliar with the art show, each year our wonderful teachers select one piece of art per student to be displayed at the library. Families are invited to view the artwork at their own leisure whenever they choose to visit the library throughout the entire month of March. What a fabulous chance for your young artist to see his/her masterpiece displayed in a public setting! Come and enjoy!

Mandatory Membership Meeting is March 11th

Our annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th at 7:30 in the Big Room. This is a mandatory meeting. One member of each current PNS family must be in attendance in order to vote for the 2019-2020 Officers (formerly Executive Board), listed below. The monthly board meeting will follow, and all are welcome to stay.

PNS Officers 2019-2020

President – Jennifer Wiskochil
 Vice President of Administration – Kathy Brooks*
 Vice President of Membership/Enrollment - Kristie McCauley
 Vice President of Membership/Forms – Stephanie Kibler*
 Treasurer – Amy Schroeder
 Secretary – Elizabeth and Bo Boland

*-new to the board

Maintenance Projects

As winter is slowly receding, the Maintenance Committee is starting to think about outside work again. Weather permitting, we are hoping to resume outdoor maintenance activities at the March 16th Cleaning & Maintenance Day. If you can volunteer the use of a high-powered pressure washer, please inform the Maintenance Chair (Charles Havasy, chavasy@aol.com). We also hope to stain and paint outdoor play/decking structures, replace some electrical items, and are still looking for folks with artistic talent to paint murals on the classroom/hallway

walls. Thank you as always for the tremendous efforts and can-do spirit of all our volunteers at the Cleaning and Maintenance Days!

Volunteer Opportunities

Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- March 11 – Attend board meeting at 7:30pm (after required annual membership meeting)
- March 16 – Clean-Up and Maintenance Day. This is a great way to earn volunteer hours if you have not already completed your requirement. There will be one more Clean-up/Maintenance Day in May as well.
- March 28 - Spring Raffle/Playdate. A sign-up for refreshments and help with set-up and clean-up is forthcoming from the Fundraising committee.

Please check Sign-up Genius to volunteer for any of these opportunities. Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours (CDO families - 4 hours) per year. Each co-oping parent 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. Please contact Stephanie Jensen via vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org if you have any questions or concerns about earning hours.

Fundraising

Join us on Thursday, March 28th for the Spring Raffle and Playdate at PNS. The theme this year will be Fun on the Farm. There will be fun crafts/activities as well as snacks.

- Admission is \$5 for kids 2 years and older
- This is NOT a drop off event!
- Raffle tickets will be on sale mornings after drop off beginning Monday, March 25th and will also be on sale during the event.
- You do not need to be present to win

If you have questions or would like to assist in securing raffle prizes please contact us!

Sara Levy, saralevy81@yahoo.com
Emily Gillotte, emedee@hotmail.com
Fundraising Co-Chairs

PNS Feedback!

Elizabeth Boland suggested that PNS discontinue the use of plastic water bottles at PNS school wide events. Going forward water bottles will be removed from the refreshment sign-ups. Bringing your own reusable container is encouraged. However, pitchers of water and paper cups will be provided. It will be the responsibility of setup and clean up volunteers to fill and clean the water pitchers, which will be located in the kitchen closet. If you would like to donate pitchers with lids, you can earn volunteer credit.

This is a small step to reduce single use plastic consumption at PNS. If you have other ideas, please drop them in the suggestion box or contact Elizabeth Boland.

Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the April Newsletter please submit it by March 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 our library team: The Clare, Stein and Maiwurm families for always keeping our bookshelves well-stocked with books relevant to each week's theme. Thank you to Jane Millward, Ryan Bianchetti, Jessie Auten, Karen Wallace, Phyllis Bruyette, Laura Braceland, Emmy Cade and Kelly Volciak for spending a morning at school to clean, de-clutter and organize. Thank you to Kristie McCauley for her hard work on enrollment and the Open House. Thank you to those who volunteered at our Open House: Kirsten Lockhart, Melissa Ahern, Erin Aji, Nari Kim, Jim Maiwurm, Jenny Otto, Meg Krug, Zeina Freya, Jennifer Hsu, Emily Gillotte, and Stephanie Jensen.

March 2019

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1 Tuition Due	2 VIP DAY! 10am-12pm
3	4 CDO Brunch 9:30-10:30am	5 2s Brunch 9:30-10:30am	6 4s Brunch 9:30-10:30am	7 3/4s Brunch 9:30-10:30am	8 3s Brunch 9:30-10:30am	9
10	11 Board/Annual Membership Meeting 7:30pm	12	13	14	15	16 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am- 11:30am
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19	20 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 NO SCHOOL PACT Conference	29	30
31						