

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

# The Providence Pages

## *A Letter from Jennifer...*



### Mark your Calendar

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL  
FCPS Holiday

**Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Board Meeting  
7:30pm

**April 15<sup>th</sup> thru April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL  
Spring Break

**April 1<sup>st</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
(sign up for times with your teacher)

**Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Coffee  
7:30pm

**April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Teacher Appreciation Week

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to [melissasahern@gmail.com](mailto:melissasahern@gmail.com) by April 20<sup>th</sup> for May's issue.



Happy spring to you all!

As we head into the last two months of the school year, I'd like to give recognition to the outgoing officers of the board who have helped run our school this year. A big thank you to Stephanie & Dan Jensen and Laura Heim who will be leaving the board this year. Thank you for your contributions to the board over the years. Thanks also to Kristie McCauley, Amy Schroeder, and Bo & Elizabeth Boland for all they have done this past year and for staying on to serve again. They will be joined by new officers Kathy Brooks and Stephanie Kibler. The 2019-2020 Officers will take over at the April 8th board meeting.

The school will be closed on Friday, April 5 for a FCPS Student Holiday. Our Spring Break is April 15-19.

The April 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be held at 7:30 in the Big Room and as always, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. As the first meeting with the new officers, this is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and bring up any thoughts you have for the coming year.

Another important meeting to start preparations for the upcoming school year is soon. If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on Monday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Taylor Hall (upstairs in the church). This is a required meeting for all new and returning parents. This is not a kid friendly event, so please plan to leave your children at home. An invitation including more details will be sent via email soon.

Also during the month of April, teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences. Please be on the lookout for sign ups sent out by the teachers.

We will have the chance to celebrate our amazing teachers the first week of May during Teacher Appreciation Week. Your class reps will be spearheading this opportunity to show our gratitude.

Finally, as I wrap up my third year as Board President, I'd like to say how grateful I am for having had this opportunity to serve. I am excited to serve again next year! Thank you!

*Jennifer*

## CDO & 2's

April is a wonderful month for enjoying the great outdoors, and we will be making the most of it in the Twos and CDO classes! This month we will take some nature walks, open up the big outdoor sandbox, try out some new and interesting playground toys, and explore three nature-related themes.

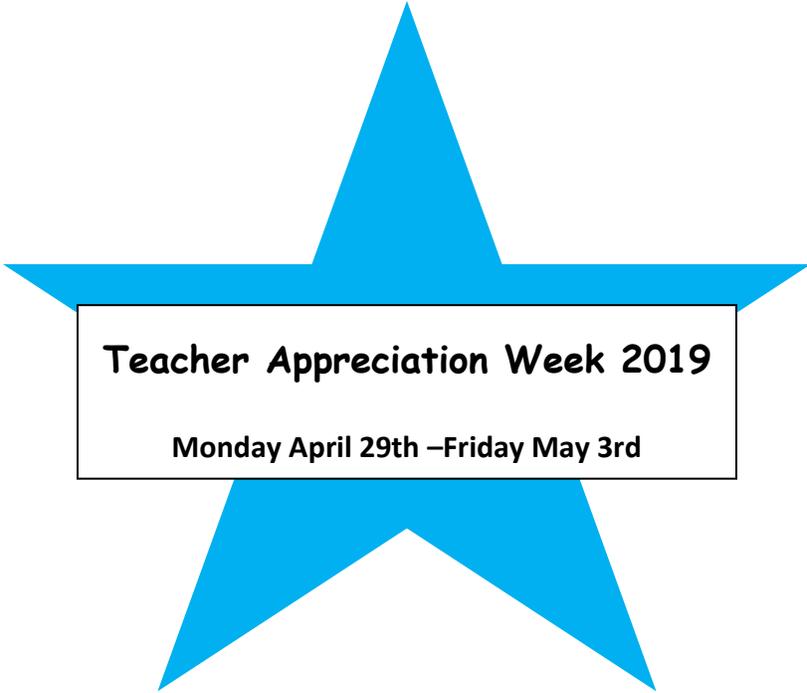
What's growing **in the Garden**? In the first week of April, we'll talk about how plants grow, and examine some real seeds that are sprouting up, and roots that are growing down. We can dig in the dirt, do some exploring, and find out what else lives in the garden above and below the ground. The following week, we'll continue to talk about seeds and growing as we take a closer look at **Fruits and Vegetables**, observing their various shapes, sizes and colors.

**Spring Break** comes late this year, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. Whether you're traveling or sticking close to home, I hope your families enjoy some lovely weather and outdoor fun this week!

When we return on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, our theme for the last full week of April will be **Birds**. We will learn about eggs, nests, and bird behavior, observe some of the birds nesting near the preschool, sing about different kinds of birds, and use real feathers in our music and art.

Spring parent-teacher conferences also take place this month; I will meet with CDO parents on Monday, April 1st, and with Twos parents on the following Tuesday, the 9th. It's always a joy to talk with you about how much your children have grown and accomplished over the course of this preschool year!

Ms. Auten



**Teacher Appreciation Week 2019**

**Monday April 29th –Friday May 3rd**

It's Spring (any late snow notwithstanding) and, hopefully, we will be spending a lot more time outside in the Threes Class. Our class loves the playground and nature walks and we'll even have some chances to do our Morning Meetings outside as well!

First up, we'll end March and begin April with **Spring** and **Spring Weather**. We'll create some "rainy day" artwork and explore the colors in the Rainbow, including color mixing activities. We'll have a weather bear to dress for various outdoor situations and we'll practice our patterning skills with some weather symbols. We're going to keep track of our weather all month long, so we can use our counting skills as well.

Our two day week of April 8<sup>th</sup> we'll be exploring **Under the Ground**. Our focus will be on dirt and soil as well as rocks and worms. We're going to plant some seeds and wait patiently to see if they sprout. We're going to get messy making some mud "pies" as well as painting with some tactile finger paint. Outside, we'll take our magnifying glasses to observe the ground. We're going to examine and sort rocks and talk about the characteristics we prefer, shiny, smooth, large, specific colors? We will also highlight the important job of the mighty worm and how important it is to the underground habitat. A worm habitat will be added to the Big Room for us to observe these busy animals. We'll definitely explore moving our bodies like these helpful creatures.

The week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll be talking about **Birds**. Look for lots of feathery art and some handmade nests to come home. We'll be talking about the beaks and wings of birds as we compare different types of birds and the many habitats in which we find them. We'll revisit the science of air movement and gravity as we observe the birds flying high in the air and have lots of opportunity to watch the birds build their nests outside PNS. Hopefully our window birdfeeder in the Science Center will help us see these animals up closely.

When we return from Spring Break, we'll be talking about life **At the Pond**. We're going to highlight frogs, ducks, turtles and fish. We'll pick our favorite pond animal to create using tactile materials for a Pond display in the hallway. We'll talk about how pond animals are the same and different and practice our sorting skills. Look for lots of gross motor activities as we move like different animals and complete a Pond Animal Obstacle Course. We'll even set up a small "pond" outside for catching toy ducks and fish. If we're lucky, we'll have some tadpoles in the Big Room for observation.

The final week of April we're talking about **Gardens and Insects**. We're going to start getting ready for our Mother's Day Brunch on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. A lot of our art this week will be a surprise for this special occasion. **Be sure to mark your calendars for spending at least part of the morning with us on May 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 – 10:30.** We'll be doing a small performance, presenting gifts and serving brunch. Besides our art surprises, we'll also be talking about what seeds need to grow and doing a sequencing activity. We'll have a science activity that allows us to see flowers "drink" water and we'll sort seeds in various ways. The insects who visit the garden are very important and we'll be discussing the lives of butterflies, ladybugs and bumblebees. We'll take a nature walk around the school to look for different colored flowers as well as insects. Hopefully, we'll be able to observe the life cycle of the butterfly in real time in our butterfly habitat in the Big Room.

I am looking forward to our spring conferences on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Look for a sign up the first week of April. Other important dates in April include **No School** April 5<sup>th</sup> and our field trip to **Hidden Pond** on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Here is hoping for a warm and sunny April!

Ms. Ryan

Finally...it's SPRING!!! Threat of snow...gone! Cold...gone! Dark, dismal mornings...gone! Hooray! The birds are chirping, the grass is growing, the warm breezes are blowing...and our children are outside playing! PNS is happy to welcome the month of April!

The first week of this glorious month (4/1-4/4) finds us looking skyward. We will spend our time learning all about our feathered friends...birds! I'm sure we will be looking upward during our nature walks...and making some colorful, feathered artwork!

Next during the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will explore the world of Underground Creatures. Hum...who is crawling around under our feet? We will talk about anything from worms to moles...and spend sometime in the dirt. ☺ Sounds like a week for wearing old clothes to school, doesn't it?

Spring Break week is from April 15<sup>th</sup>-April 18<sup>th</sup>! Happy vacation, everyone! And when we return on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will return to play "in the garden." We will perform experiments to prove what a plant needs to grow big and strong...and we'll learn about the life cycle of that plant. On Wednesday, 4/24, the class will be visiting Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax (near Costco on Rt. 29!) as a culminating experience to this "growing" week...and there, we will get to plant our own flowering seedling to bring home and watch grow! Julie will have more details on the field trip as the date gets closer.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, we'll begin our unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? Who or what lives there? The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the little creatures that live in, and around, ponds. The life cycle of a frog will be discussed and acted out. (And now I strongly recommend a family trip to Fairfax County's own Hidden Pond Nature Center...it's so much fun there! The kids will love it!)

Spring conferences for the 3/4s will take place on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Miss Kelly and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so there will be a minimum of disruption for the children.

Letters for the Monday gang will be J (1<sup>st</sup>) and G (8<sup>th</sup>), E (21<sup>st</sup>), and X (29<sup>th</sup>). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet!

Happy April!!!! Here's to warm weather and smiling faces!!!

Jane



As the saying goes... March came in like a lion, and out like a lamb. I love seeing the flowers blooming, and I'm excited to be able to go out to the playground every day!

April begins with Fairy Tales week (4/2), complete with castles, dragons, princes and princesses. We'll talk about our favorites, and use our imaginations to create our own tales. The letter of the week is "G".

The next week (4/9), we'll be learning all about underground animals and insects. Plan to get 'down and dirty' that week! The letter of the week is "I". We'll be ending that week with a Field Trip to Riverbend Park, to learn about bugs... check your email for details.

The following week (4/16) is Spring Break... enjoy the time with your kids. We can't wait to hear what everyone did!

After Spring Break (4/23), our theme is Earth and Garden. We'll plant seeds and learn about how things grow. The letter of the week is "E".

Important dates to remember: **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** No School, due to FCPS Teacher workday. **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** Parent/teacher conferences beginning at 9:30am. Please be sure to sign up for a spot. **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** Field Trip to Riverbend Park. **April 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** Spring Break.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** Once the weather gets warmer, we will be dismissing from the playground. Except for the children who have lunch bunch, backpacks will be outside with us for pick-up.

Mrs Wallace & Miss Kelly



## Enrollment

We currently have open spots for CDO and 2s, for a 3-year-old in the 3/4s, one spot in the 3s, and one spot in the 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](mailto:membership@providencenurseryschool.org) or visit the Enrollment Page on [www.providencenurseryschool.com](http://www.providencenurseryschool.com) for more information.

## 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. There is still one space available in the 3s and one space in the 4/5s class. Visit [www.providencenurseryschool.com](http://www.providencenurseryschool.com) under the Summer Camp tab for more information.

## Enrichment

On Wednesday, April 3rd at 11:30am, students will enjoy an “Under the Sea” presentation, which gives an overview of life in our oceans, including a variety of live sea animals and real marine artifacts, including a clam, crabs, sea snails, a sea star, and others as well as a discussion of ecology, habitat, and conservation. CDO and 2s students are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult.

## VCPC

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](mailto:president@providencenurseryschool.org).

## Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to everyone who has already finished their hours and an extra big thanks to those that continue to volunteer even after your hours are met—this is a huge help! There is still plenty of time and opportunities to finish up your volunteer requirement for this school year. Please let us know if you are concerned about getting all your hours in or if you need an updated total. If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below, please check the Sign-up Genius. If you have questions about your volunteer time, please contact Stephanie Jensen or Kathy Brooks at [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org)

- Cover for lunch bunch on Wednesday, April 4th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Attend the board meeting on Monday, April 8th at 7:30 p.m.
- Help set up, clean up, or provide refreshments for Spring Coffee on April 29th

## Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Spring Playdate and Raffle! A big thank you to everyone who helped get donations and volunteered for set-up, snacks, and clean-up! We raised a lot of money for PNS! We have 1 or 2 restaurant nights coming up before the school year is over. Stay tuned for more details! If you have a suggestion for restaurant nights, please let us know!

Emily Gillotte ([emedee@hotmail.com](mailto:emedee@hotmail.com))  
Sara Levy ([saralevy81@yahoo.com](mailto:saralevy81@yahoo.com))



## Maintenance

Thanks to all the hard-working parents at the March 16 Cleaning and Maintenance Day! Thanks to Randy for bringing a power washer to clean the playground for the spring. We discovered some wood rot on the picnic table (and decking by the shed) that we will need to replace soon, so we are looking for folks with carpentry skills to help (contact Charles Havasy at [chavasy@aol.com](mailto:chavasy@aol.com)). And we are still looking for folks with artistic skills to paint murals on the classroom walls.

Finally, thanks to Zoe and Grace for helping to pick up the replacement shed lattice!

## Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the May Newsletter please submit it by April 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,  
Melissa Ahern  
[melissasahern@gmail.com](mailto:melissasahern@gmail.com)

## Thank You!

Thank you to our **PNS teachers** for another fabulous VIP Day! Our students and their Very Important People shared a fun and educational morning.

Thank you to our social committee members for providing refreshments and coordinating volunteers for our March General Membership meeting. Thank you to all who donated refreshments or volunteered to help with set-up and clean-up. Thank you to our teachers for their work on spring brunches. Thank you to Meg Krug, Julie Agar, Dave Meyer, Peter Streckfus, and Jon Levy for covering the parent brunches. Thank you to our teachers for helping our kids create beautiful projects for the art show and the nice labels describing each class. Thank you to those who helped with March's Clean-Up and Maintenance Day and as always, thank you to our Clean-Up Coordinator, Maintenance Chair, Maintenance and Clean-Up Committee families for leading the effort.



# April 2019

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
	1 <b>Tuition Due</b> <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences CDO</i>	2	3	4	5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> FCPS Holiday	6
7	8 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm	9 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 2s &amp; 4s</i>	10 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3s &amp; 3/4s</i>	11 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3/4s</i>	12 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3s</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <b>Spring Coffee</b> 7:30pm	30				