

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

October 1st thru 7th

Brunch for Parents

9:30am-10:30am (see calendar for your child's specific class date).

This is not mandatory but attendance counts for a 1/2 adult education hour.

Saturday October 12^h

Cleaning and Maintenance Day

8:30am-11:30am

Monday October, 14th

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

Monday October, 21st

PNS Board Meeting 7:30pm

Wednesday October 23rd

PACT Conference

No School

October 28th, 29th, & 30th

Halloween Parades 9:30am

(see calendar for your child's specific class date)

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



We have gotten off to a great 2019-2020 school year at PNS! Thank you to our wonderful teachers, aides, and PNS families. Hopefully by now, your little one is settling in and loving preschool.

October is filled with lots of fun things at PNS. Your children will enjoy plenty of stories, games, songs and crafts to celebrate fall. For the parents, we have our class brunches October 1-4 and on October 7. Please see the school calendar for dates (CDO Brunch date changed to October 7) and look for messages from your child's teacher and class rep with details. These brunches are a fun, casual way to get to know other parents in your class, learn about your children's class as well as to earn 30 minutes of parent education credit.

PNS is closed on Monday, October 14th for Columbus Day. Our monthly board meeting will be held on October 21st and all are invited to attend. The agenda will be out soon. PNS is closed on Wednesday, October 23rd as well while our teachers are at a conference.

Our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year will be held on Saturday, October 12th. We can certainly use some extra help for this one. There will be lots of leaves to be raked from the playground, and it's a great time to rid the school of any lingering germs as we head into cold & flu season.

To end this busy month, every child will have a chance to put on a costume and wave to their friends and family during our annual Halloween parades. More details will be sent as Halloween approaches. In the meantime, if you are planning your child's costume, please keep our young preschool audience in mind. Nothing too scary for the little ones!

Once again, a huge thank you to all of you who have given your time to make our school run smoothly and successfully. Please know that your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Happy Fall!

Jennifer

CDO &

2's

After wrapping up last month talking about our families, we'll start the month of October talking about those *other* important family members: **Pets!** What makes a good pet? We'll read some serious books about animals that make good pets – and some silly ones, too. Then, starting on 10/7, our topic will be **Body Parts**. "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" will be our theme song for the week, and we'll get plenty of movement and exercise while learning the names of major parts of the body. We'll also read about doctors, and get out the toy stethoscopes for pretend play.

My students are fascinated by the things we all have in common, whether we're talking about our families, faces, or favorite foods. Starting on 10/14 our theme will be **Daily Routines**, from tooth-brushing and getting dressed to bedtime; we'll read stories about the things that children do each day, all over the world. I can't wait to hear the conversations this topic will inspire!

The week of 10/21 will bring us to a more abstract topic: **Art**. We'll take a close look at some fine art pieces, practice describing what we see, and identify colors and shapes. And of course we'll make some art of our own, both individually and as a whole class. It's never too early to start appreciating art!

The final week of October is **Halloween** week. We'll explore costumes, examine real pumpkins and learn a pumpkin song, and have our own Halloween Parade! On Monday the 28th (CDO) and Tuesday the 29th (Twos), students can wear or bring their costumes to school; parents should plan to stick around for a few minutes after drop-off to see us parade out and show off our costumes!

I look forward to seeing parents at the class brunches on October 1st (Twos) and October 7th (CDO), and reporting on all of our early adventures and upcoming activities!

Ms. Auten



Wow, we have been so busy for the first month of school! Your children have been learning new routines, new rules, new jobs and some of their new friends' names. Playdough, doll babies, climbing (inside and out) Bartholomew the Bear, dancing and art projects have all be very popular activities these first few weeks.

In the coming month we will add some new components to our school routines. Weather permitting we'll have our first Bike Day on Wednesday, October 9th. ***Please remember to label your child's helmet with his/her name and make sure it is already adjusted to fit with a snap.*** Additionally, once a week I'll be doing small group activities with the children during Big Room time. The activities will range from interactive stories and pretend play to beginning some table work skills like following simple directions and working on fine motor skills like starting to use scissors.

The week of October 6th we'll be discussing **Pets**, the animal members of our families. We'll be talking about how we care for animals, the pets we wish we had (if we don't have any) and some classification concepts as we compare how different pets feel texture-wise. The week of October 13th we will be exploring **Fall Weather** with a focus on the leaves and trees of autumn. Nature walks, tree hugging and outside observations will be featured. The week leading up to Halloween, we'll explore a "spookier" side of nature, with **Night Creatures**. We'll talk about the animals who stay awake at night as well as the darkness of nighttime. We'll even have a Pajama Day at school and a camping set up in the Big Room! The final week of October we'll explore **Apples and Pumpkins**. We'll discuss how these plants and fruits change throughout the seasons of the year. We'll be trying some apple and pumpkin foods as well as creating with them in art projects.

Save the Date: Our Halloween "parade" will be on Wednesday, October 30th, at 9:30am in the Big Room. The children will make their own Halloween treats to eat for snack that day. More details regarding "the parade," costumes and treats to come in a class update.

Important upcoming dates to remember: **October 4th** Threes Class Brunch, **October 14th & 23rd** No School, and **October 30th** Halloween Parade.

Thanks for continuing to arrive on time, labeling snack and lunch bags with dates, packing healthy snacks and water cups for the children each day and emptying their backpacks every afternoon. All of this supports a great daily routine and has gotten us off to a wonderful start to the year! Thank you!

Ms. Ryan



October...thoughts of football games, pumpkins and spider webs, cool mornings, earlier darkness, geese honking as they fly south, long walks through the woods with my dogs...and the sounds of happy children tromping through tons of falling leaves on the playground at PNS. Yep...it's autumn!

October will find us exploring several important topics...fire safety, our five senses, body parts, autumn leaves, and best of all, Halloween! (Don't forget that there is no school on Columbus Day, October 14th in observation of Columbus Day, nor on Wednesday, the 23rd due to the PNS' staff attendance at the Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers' fall conference.)

During fire safety week (9/30), we will practice stop, drop, and role and perform several experiments relating to heat. Starting 10/7, we will test our senses by smelling, and touching, and tasting all sorts of interesting "stuff." How many body parts can your little person name...and explain what they do for us? We will find out during the week of 10/14. ☺ Autumn leaves will be the focus during the week of 10/11. You can count on that week being filled with lots of color and texture as we explore the outdoors.

Our month ends with every kid's favorite holiday, Halloween! **Our parade this year will be on Wednesday, October 30th.** Please send your child to school in his/her costume on that day. We will be parading with the 3s' class AND the 4s' class, so that everyone at PNS can admire all of the costumes (Please remember no masks or really scary outfits...thanks!). After the parade (**which you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend**), the kids will change from their costumes and we'll return to our "normal" day. (If anyone would like to volunteer to provide a special treat on that day (10/30), please let me know...otherwise I will come up with something special for that day.

Per your overwhelming support, we are going to make the 3/4s annual trip to the Cox Farm's Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, October 17th. I look forward to this trip every year! We'll take a hayride, play in the straw mazes, swing on the rope swings, and drink apple cider at snack time. It's a wonderful day to be a kid...big or little! Plan on coming with us – and staying

out there longer with your child, if you can! Siblings are welcome to come along for the fun! Miss Kelly's 4s will also be at Cox Farm with us, so there will be so much fun to be had! Please let Meg Krug know if your child needs a ride out there. There is more than enough to do for the day out there...I wish I could stay, but I need to get back for Nana pick-up duty. I do hope lots of you can join us!!!

October also signals the start of my "Star of the Day" program. I will send home a calendar at the beginning of every month which assigns each child "their" special day...it's their time to shine. (The October calendar went home last week...if you need another copy, please let me know!) The Star of the Day will be my special helper...from line leader to calendar person to "Show 'n Teller"...it is "their" day. The night before your child is to be the Star of the Day, I will put the decorated "Show 'n Tell Can" on top of their cubbie. When you arrive in the morning of your child's "Star" day, please place the "chosen" item in the can. I would really like the item to relate to the weekly theme, or some seasonal item, if at all possible. After playing in the Big Room right before dismissal, we always gather on the blue stripe rug for storytime. This is also the time when we will have Show 'n Tell. As the year progresses, I have hopes of tweaking this process a little more, so that we can work on asking appropriate who, what, where, when, and why questions about the item.

The Monday Gang (the 4 year olds) will start working with some introductory letter activities this month also. We'll take a look at one letter at a time. Our lessons will incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences which are developmentally appropriate for your four year old. The letter will be listed on your calendars along with the weekly themes...F (9/30), P (10/7), L (10/21), and H (10/28).

So we're off and running and having a great time! We had such a smooth beginning to the year that September flew by. October is bound to be even more fun! Also please remember that our class brunch is Thursday, October 3rd at 9:30...come for information, socialization, and adult education credit! Win, win, win!

Happy Autumn!!! *Jane*

Can you believe October is here already? This is by far my favorite time of year. School is in full swing! The 4s are feeling comfortable with the school routines and the new friendships they have formed. It is time for some colorful autumn fun!

We will begin October with a full week of fire safety action. This will be somewhat of a review for those who were in the 3/4s last year, but one can never have too much practice when it comes to fire safety. If we are lucky, our firefighter friends will be stopping by to give the kids the opportunity to explore their fire engine and equipment. Fingers crossed they won't have an emergency to tend to that morning.

During the week of October 8th, our theme will be Day and Night. We will learn about the types of things we see and hear during the day vs. during the night. We will also work some discussions about opposites into our busy days. Stay tuned to your email for a possible pajama day during this week.

Fall brings about fun ways to use all of our five senses, so we will take advantage during the week of October 15th. This is the perfect week for our field trip to Cox Farm. There will be so much to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste!

Autumn leaves and forest animals will be on our minds for the week of October 22nd. I hope to

spend some extra time exploring outdoors this week while enjoying the beautiful colors of autumn.

The last week of October will be all about Halloween, and it will be fun! I hope everyone can join us for our class "parade" in the Big Room on Wednesday, October 30th.

Finally, October begins our introduction to letters and their sounds. We will practice the sounds, make letters with our bodies, and have a variety of hands-on activities and games available each day to help support language development and phonemic awareness. The letter of the week will be highlighted on the monthly calendar and of course, in my coming attractions each week.

Important Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, October 2nd – 4s Class Brunch

Thursday, October 17th – Cox Farm Field Trip

Wednesday, October 23rd – No School

Wednesday, October 30th – Halloween Parade

Tuesday, November 5th – No School

Ms. Kelly



Tuition

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Please pay on time via check or e-check in Jovial. Credit card payment through Jovial is also accepted, though the CC fee must be donated. A grace period for all payments extends through the 10th of each month. Payment not received by then is subject to a \$25 late fee. Please make your checks payable to "Providence Nursery School, Inc." Your child's name must be printed on the memo line. Put all tuition and lunch bunch checks in the black box in the hallway by the double doors to the Big Room, or the black box outside the music room.

Contact treasurer@providencenurseryschool.com if you have any questions regarding tuition.

Enrollment

We still have a few openings for the 2019-2020 school year. Please spread the word to your friends, family, Mom groups, and play groups.

Halloween at PNS

Probably the most exciting event at PNS this month is our annual Halloween "parade". Students and teachers alike will dress up to show off their costumes to family and friends. The school will be full of our kids' favorite animals, story book characters, princesses, and superheroes. All family members are welcome. Don't forget your camera/phone! You'll want to capture these moments!

As you and your child are deciding on a costume, we ask that you keep our youngest students in mind. Masks or mummy wraps are great for trick or treating but can be quite scary for little ones who don't understand it is one of their friends underneath. We encourage you and your children to be creative and inventive with their costumes, but please also be considerate of our preschool audience.

Parent Education

I talked about mandated reported training in co-op training this year. Below is the link and description to the online training offered by the state of Virginia. I recommend that all co-point parents take the training. I think it takes about 30 minutes and will count toward your four required parent education hours.

[Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators](#) [↗](#)

This online course work best in Internet Explorer 11 and is provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services training division.

- Individuals must select the "Required Training/Courses" tab under the heading "Child Protective Services."
- Then select the "Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, & Responding (for educators) (Web page)."

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/child_abuse_training.shtml

Dress Up Request

As you clean out your dress-up closet or check out sales for Halloween costumes, please keep PNS in mind! Our Dramatic Play center could always use more dress-up items, especially animal- or vocation-related. Please no masks or weapons. Donations can be left in Peyton Lockhart's cubby (3/4s).

Enrichment

This year we kick off Enrichment with a visit from Fire Station 423 on Wednesday, October 2nd. CDOs, twos and siblings are welcome to join the fun with a supervising parent.

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.

- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, October 21st at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- RSVP via the sign-up on Sign-up Genius if you are attending the October Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 12th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All families are required to attend one Clean-Up Day per child enrolled. You will receive volunteer hours if you help out at an additional Clean-Up Day (or an additional parent helps on the same day!).

Contact Kathy Brooks via vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these opportunities.

Fundraising

-Mabel's Labels fundraiser ends on October 31.

-Use code PNS on Certifikid for orders over \$20 and our school will receive \$5.

-Restaurant night will be October 15, 4-8 pm, at Noodles and Company in Fairfax.

-Fundraiser at Flight in Springfield on October 23 from 10-2.

-Holiday shop forms are due by October 18!

Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the November Newsletter please submit it by October 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 Alex Hume for doing a fantastic job leading our co-op training sessions and for helping everyone get a head-start on parent ed hours. Thank you to our social committee for coordinating treats for Back to School Night and Co-op Training. Thank you to all of the families who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up. Thank you to Melissa Ahern for a great September newsletter. Thank you to everyone who helped at the first clean-up and maintenance day. Thank you to our class reps for helping all our new families feel welcome: Amy Andrews, Sarah Millward, Laura Heim, Amy Rodgers and Luisa Blythe.



October 2019

| Sun | M | T | W | Th | F | Sat |
|-----|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | 1 Tuition Due <i>Brunch 2s</i> 9:30am-10:30am | 2 <i>Brunch 4s</i> 9:30am-10:30am | 3 <i>Brunch 3/4s</i> 9:30am-10:30am | 4 <i>Brunch 3s</i> 9:30am-10:30am | 5 |
| | 6 <i>Brunch CDO</i> 9:30am-10:30am | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am |
| 12 | 13 NO SCHOOL | 14 Noodles & Company fundraiser 4pm-8pm | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Board Meeting 7:30pm | 21 | 22 NO SCHOOL PACT Conference Flight Fit N Fun fundraiser 10am-2pm | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Halloween Parade CDO 9:30am | 28 Halloween Parade 2s 9:30am | 29 Halloween Parade 3s, 3/4s, & 4s 9:30am | 30 Halloween  | 31 | |