

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 20031
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The Providence Pages

A Letter from Jennifer...



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 6th
School Resumes

Monday January 13th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January 14th thru 16th
Parent Teacher Conferences
3/4s & 4s

Saturday January 18th
Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday January 20th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 22nd
Open House 10am-12pm
School in session

Welcome 2020! 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 6** and enrollment for the **2020-2021** school year is in full swing. Please remember that your enrollment forms and application fees are due on **Friday January 10, 2020**. 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 22nd**. 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 Kathy Brooks, VP Admin.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 20** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and closed on **Monday, January 27 and Tuesday, January 28**.

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 Amy Schroeder for taking on the job. It's not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Enrollment details will be out soon!

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2020!

Take care,

Jennifer



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

CDO & 2's

Welcome back! I hope your new year is off to a great start! With the days so short, and the weather so frosty... it's the perfect time to talk about **Winter**. The Twos and CDO classes will start the month reading and singing about winter activities for the ice and snow. We'll create art with ice, and use felt board people to talk about the warm winter clothing people wear.

Then, beginning on the 13th, my classes will be learning about what **Animals** do in **Winter**. We'll pretend about hibernating animals, sing and tell stories about bears, and make observations about animal camouflage.

Dinosaurs are coming to PNS on the week of the 20th. When we return from our Monday off for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, there will be dinos *everywhere*: climbing in the Big Room, hiding in

the sensory table, stomping through our art projects, and waiting on the classroom shelves! We will dig for fossils, read about different kinds of dinosaurs... and, of course, stomp and roar.

Finally, with a short week at the end of January due to a two-day FCPS holiday, we'll start a theme that requires more than a week to fit it all in: **The Farm!** We'll get out the tractors and pretend with farm toys and puppets, make many animal sounds as we read, and learn some classic farm-themed nursery rhymes. Stay tuned for more farm fun in February!

I can't wait to see all my young friends back at school in **2020**, ready to share their interesting stories about the winter break and excited to get back to learning and playing at preschool!

Jessie



PNS Open House

Wednesday, January 22nd 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 6, 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. We'll even discover how many kids fit in various dinosaur footprints! There will be plenty of dino playsets available in the Big Room and in the classroom. **No school Monday, January 20th**.

Starting January 27th, we'll read, sing and play **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 and felt scenes 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, eventually moving to whole group "table work."

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. **Please make sure the change of clothes in your child's backpack contain winter appropriate gear.** As always, please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Ryan



Happy New Year...2020, really? That holiday break really sailed by quickly. I hope everyone had a wonderful time, spent with family and friends...making wonderful memories. It was nice to have time to do nothing in particular, but enjoy being with those you love. Now I am betting that your children missed their classmates and are ready for the second half of our preschool year. I know I am! I need to see my PNS family!

My planbook is full of exciting adventures and experiences...so let's get going! In any normal year, it would be cold outside and we would be experiencing some wintery fun! As I write this, that doesn't look promising, but a girl can still dream. (Yes, I am one of the weird ones who LOVES cold and snow!) Our Winter Wonderland theme (1/6) will provide us with a basis for several science explorations of liquid/solid and hot/cold. (This group loves experiments....they are fascinated with things that "change.") Each child will have the opportunity to experience what makes this season so unique...and fun! Then we are off to talk about polar animals (1/13). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls are just a few of the creatures that might make appearances during our circletime this week. And watch out for that glittery artwork! During the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS. (Dinosaurs-1/20, Paleontology-1/27) Yes, we will even don our paleontologist hats to discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinos and gravel in our sensory table to the rolling of "dinosaur eggs" to create beautiful paintings, the excitement runs high!

There will be a couple of classroom management changes during January. Our sign-in board has been retired for this year. There will be a new system of "attendance taking" for the children each morning. As they enter the classroom, there will be a "Question of the Day" for each child to answer. They will find their name on the chart board and respond to the question on the chart by "voting" with their name. This activity serves two purposes...each student must recognize his/her name to "vote" and then they must make an individual decision about a specific question. (This is just another step in the progression we started in September...moving their initial, moving their initial with their name, and then moving their name to sign-in each morning.) I will also be phasing in more free choice during small motor time first thing each morning. The kids will be able to choose the activity that they want to play with (right from my cabinet!) instead of me 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. It is one more way for the group to become more

independent.

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids have become at putting on their own coats. (Flip, flop...over the top!) I am so proud of them! Children of this age group can become 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/herself when leaving home. Practice zipping that winter jacket...it's a very age appropriate skill to conquer. Also please allow your child to walk into school carrying own their backpack and snackbox...I promise to make a fuss at how independent they are becoming! They love being "big kids!" Phyllis, Emmy, and I are also encouraging the children to ask for help from their classmates if they come across something that they need assistance to do...zipping their coat, snapping their bike helmet, opening a water bottle, tearing open a snack bag, etc. Learn by doing is our motto!

FYI: Conferences will take place on January 15th & 16th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for about fifteen minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Soon, I will post a form on Signup Genius, so that you can make your choice of conference times. I will be sending out a questionnaire to ask if there is anything specific that you would like to discuss during our time together. Also remember that there is no school on the 20th (MLK Day), and the 27th & 28th (FCPS holidays). We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 22nd during the PNS Open House. The Open House will be going on all around us, but we will be having a regular school day. Please also remember that we WILL continue to go outside each day that the weather permits. That beautiful playground is fun - even when it is cold outside! So don't forget to send in those hats and mittens (that have all been labeled!) every Providence day.

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters W(1/6) and B(1/13). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use. They all worked together to figure out how to spell SANTA. It was so much fun to listen to their phonics' efforts! Their prereading skills are really improving. And each of them is writing their whole first name now...I've seen so much growth!!!

WOW...what a month! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. You know by now how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is and how his/her skills are developing. Stay tuned...

Jane

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope your winter break was filled with special moments and memories of your children that you will have for years to come. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I am ready for the calm that January tends to bring. Of course, in the 4s class, the pace never slows. I hope all the kids are ready to jump right into the New Year.

During the first week of January, we will be talking about winter weather and polar animals. I happen to love winter, snow, and animals so this will be a fun week for me. There are so many great books and art projects to accompany this theme. Your child's backpack will be coming home full!

Of course, with the cold weather often comes an abundance of sickness. We will spend the next week learning about body parts and germs. My goal is for everyone to stay healthy so they can keep coming to school.

Dinosaurs will rule the school during the week of the 20th. This is always a very popular theme. I have a feeling many of my young friends will be able to teach me a thing or two this week. After that, we will shift to transportation and all the different ways we can get to where we are going.

We will continue to work our way through the alphabet with letters W, I, D, C, & K. The kids love searching for letters in our morning messages. Their pre-reading skills are really starting to emerge.

Parent teacher conferences will take place on the 14th and 15th. We will have 15 uninterrupted minutes to talk about your child's accomplishments and goals at school. Stay tuned for a sign-up genius in your email.

On Wednesday, the 22nd, we will show off our school to potential new students and their families. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time to help welcome our visitors and show them what makes our school so special. Fun fact: When I was looking for a preschool for my now 12 year old, Mrs. Wallace gave me my first tour of PNS at the open house...and the rest is history!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to hearing about all your winter break and holiday adventures!

-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.

Maintenance

A big thanks to Alvaro Ponce de León Saavedra for replacing the play crib screws and touching up the paint. It should be good for many more years of PNS Big Room play!



Enrollment

Friendly reminder that applications for the 2020-2021 school year are due 1.10.20 by 12:30 pm.

January 10, 2020: In-house registration deadline. All application forms must be submitted by 12:30pm.

January 13, 2020: Beginning of enrollment for alumni and Church members.

January 20, 2020: Registration deadline for alumni and Church members.

January 22, 2020: Open House and beginning of enrollment for new families.

January 29, 2020: Registration deadline for new families. *Applications received after January 29th are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.*

Mid-February 2020: All families are notified of their enrollment status (acceptance or wait list).

Parent Education

Skill Builders will be conducting speech and OT screenings at PNS during classes on February 3rd and 4th. Information on the screenings, including their cost, a permission slip, and a short questionnaire regarding your child will be distributed in the first week of January. Be sure to check your email for this important info.

Fundraising

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with Holiday Shop! We couldn't have done it without you. We look forward to some fun events we have planned in 2020!

Emily Gillotte and Sara Levy

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 next Board Meeting on Monday
January 13th
- Attend an additional Clean-up/Maintenance day.
The last two of the year - January 18th & March 28th
- Volunteer to help with Open House
January 22nd

Thank You!

Thank you to our Fundraising and Social Committee: Sara Levy and Emily Gilotte for all of their hard work with the Barnes & Noble Bookfair and the upcoming Holiday Shop. Thank you to all the teachers 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. A special thank you to our aides: Miss Phyllis, Miss Emmy, Mrs. Wallace, Miss Laura, Miss Susanne and Miss Karen 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 2020

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