

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

# The Providence Pages

*A Letter from Jennifer...*



## Mark your Calendar

**Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Board Meeting  
7:30pm

**Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>**

NO SCHOOL  
President's Day

**Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>**

VIP Day  
10:00am

**Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Annual Membership Meeting &  
Board Meeting  
7:30pm

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

I hope everyone is keeping warm and finding ways to stay active and entertained with so much inside time! Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is in full swing. Thanks to Kristie McCauley and all the wonderful volunteers, we had a very successful Open House. A thank you to the teachers as well. I know many parents enjoyed the opportunity to see our students playing and learning. Though the Open House is over, enrollment for new families will continue throughout the spring. The number one way new families hear about PNS is through word of mouth. Please spread the word about our school!

There are some important dates coming up this month. The slate for next year's officers will be presented at this month's board meeting on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and PNS will be closed for the President's Day holiday on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally, looking to later this month, on Saturday, February 29, PNS will hold its annual VIP Day. Maybe Dad, Grandma, Grandpa or a favorite aunt, uncle, or neighbor would like to visit the preschool with your child? VIP Day is the perfect time for a family member or special friend who normally doesn't get to see your child at school to visit. Also, please make sure to put Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. That is the night of our annual membership meeting, attendance is required for all families. We will vote on the officers for the next year. The vote takes just a few minutes and the monthly board meeting follows, you are welcome to earn a volunteer hour by staying for the meeting.

Thank you all for making PNS a wonderful place for our kids to fall in love with school! Please feel free to let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.



*Jennifer*

## CDO &

## 2's

... E-I-E-I-Ohhh! When February begins, my classes will still be enjoying our farm theme, now focusing on **Farm Animals**. We'll learn some interesting farm animal facts, and look for Little Bo Peep's lost sheep!

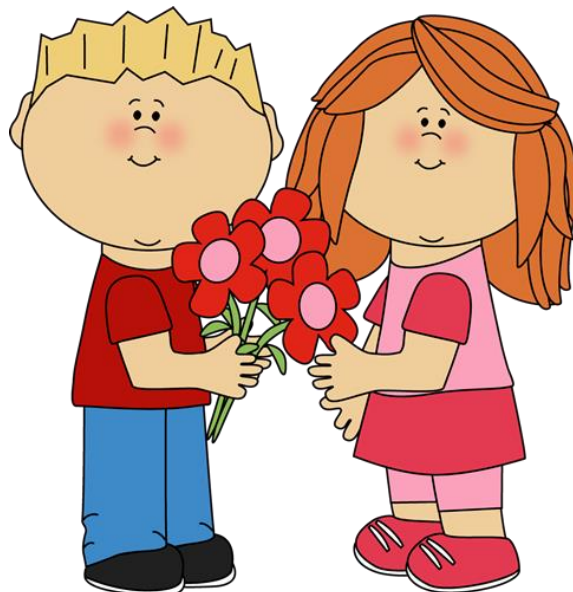
Of course, we all know what February is best known for: beginning on the 10<sup>th</sup>, our week's activities will revolve around **Valentine's Day**. There will be heart shapes in the art and at the playdough table. The Big Room will be set up like a post office, with cards and boxes to deliver, a sorting center, mail carrier costumes, and mailboxes. We'll decorate mail bags in anticipation of valentines, and take turns delivering valentines brought from home. We'll sing and pretend about valentines for friends in Music, too!

The following week, we'll read and talk about the moon and night sky for our next theme: **Night**. We'll create art inspired by stars, and learn about owls and other nocturnal animals.

My classes will end the month by revisiting the topic of **Transportation**, this time focusing our attention on vehicles in the **Air and Sea**: boats, planes, and rocket ships. We'll "Row, Row, Row" our boats and pretend to fish from them, and experiment with objects that float or sink in water. We'll play with a toy airport, chant about rocket ships, and practice counting down from ten to one for "blast off!"

It may still be cold outside, but at preschool we've got our imaginations all warmed up and ready to go; happy February!

Ms. Auten



We've been playing and working hard in the 3s class since returning from Winter Break. February brings feelings and friendship and then we're on to one of the most popular preschool themes, Transportation! We'll be tackling a total of three weeks of transportation as we explore air, land and sea. We'll also continue to add in lots of nursery rhymes and rhyming activities as we build those important phonological skills.

First up we're going to be talking about **Feelings**. We address these emotional words every day at school and I am sure you are dealing with them everyday at home as well! This week we'll be focused on looking at our faces as we show different feelings, "reading" other people's faces and practicing matching feeling words with expressions. We will discuss how our bodies feel with different emotions and practice some calm breathing and counting techniques to use with our strong emotions. Bartholomew will be spending some time with us as we role play asking for turns and telling friends to "stop please". We'll be creating a bulletin board of our "Many Colored Days" and attempting to paint how different music selections make us feel. Some of my favorite books will be read this week as we see how some characters in books deal with their feelings as well. Remember, all feelings are allowed and ok. We feel a range of emotions all day long and an important step in growing our emotional development is to recognize our feelings and be able to verbalize them.

We'll continue with Feelings into the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> as we prepare to celebrate **Friendship** as well as Valentine's Day at PNS. We'll decorate some mail bags for valentine deliveries at table work time, create Love Bug pattern art and dance and march with heart shapes. Circle Time will have us doing some activities as a team as well as with partners, including some sequencing and matching activities. The Big Room will have a Post Office theme for creative play, including some mail trucks!

The week of February 17<sup>th</sup> we start talking about Transportation, specifically **Transportation in the Air**. This will include airplanes, hot air balloons, helicopters, and even rocket ships. We'll blast off into space on a "Rocketship Run," we'll make things move by blowing on them and we'll even see a balloon rocket travel. We'll use our developing scissor skills to cut out an airplane to decorate and then throw at targets for tablework. Engineering rocket ships out of shapes, creating sky collages and blowing paint will all be part of our process art this week.

**Transportation on Land** is the following week as we talk cars, buses, skates, scooter, bikes, and of course, trains. We'll be washing cars covered in shaving cream and using cars to paint on paper. We'll move our bodies in lots of different ways to travel around the room and we'll even attempt to follow the directional signs to different places in the Big Room, just like cars driving on the road. Cooperation will be the key to successfully move our class train using connected hula hoops and we'll discuss forces as we push some scooters around as well. At table work, we'll count and sequence as we design and plan a new type of vehicle!

I so enjoy my days with all my friends in the 3s class. They have come so far in terms of social play, using their words to express themselves and in remembering the class routine and rules. Our Morning Meetings are full of activities and they have lengthened the amount of time they can wait for turns and listen to others. While this age has its challenges as the children experience such rapid growth and change in all areas of development, this is also such a fun age of discovery and curiosity and expression (both verbal and emotional!) Thank you for sharing these days with us!

Ms. Ryan

January has blown out of Fairfax and hopefully taken all those subfreezing temperatures Well, January certainly made its presence known this year...COLD, warm, windy, COLD, rainy, COLD, etc. We missed a day of school due to "snowy conditions"...but no real snow. It was a total waste of winter cold weather! But. oh well...on to February. (But I will miss all those dinosaurs...and hearing the kids say Paleontology!) But now here's a month with promise - and two good things going for it...it's short and has great themes! 😊

February brings us lots of new adventures. First comes a very exciting week...and it's all about science! I have learned that this group adores experiments and learning "why" things happen. So we will have fun 'doing' scientific stuff. You know....messy, gooey science fun. Who knows what will happen in class each day? You will have to ask your child that week to find out.

Next we'll celebrate a week filled with friendship and Valentine activities...special headbands, heart decorations, and beaded patterns. We will exchange Valentine cards on Thursday, February 13th. On that day, I would like each child to bring an addressed valentine for every member of the class. That way your child will be able to "mail" the valentines to his/her friends...all by themselves. (You know me and my hope of independence for all!) Kids love this activity and it makes Valentine's Day very special. Would anyone like to send in a special Valentine snack for the class to share? It doesn't have to be elaborate...we will think it's a treat no matter what it is! 😊

The week of February 18<sup>th</sup> will find us discussing the workers who help us in our neighborhood. Community helpers are always a fun topic...I get to find out who my little friends imagine they will be "when they grow up." I wonder how many doctors, police officers, vets, or bus drivers there will be in this class.

Dr. Seuss will be our honorary guest during the week of 2/20. We will honor his memory by exploring several of his books...including my favorite, Green Eggs and Ham. Of course, we'll do some cooking on that day! I also have a couple of other creative projects to go along with other Dr. Seuss books...so stand by! We will be working on our rhyming skills throughout the week and we'll write our own class Rhyme Time book.

The Monday 4s gang will be working with the letters O(2/3), V(2/10), and N(2/24). You should hear this group working together to decode simple three letter words. I love the cooperative spirit! Mondays are definitely fun days!

The class really has enjoyed the new check-in procedures. They always give the 'Question of the Day' great thought...and then happily go check out what morning work awaits them at the Window Table. This month I will introduce "Going on the Bell" Wednesdays. More details will follow...but the middle of the week just got more exciting!

Are you ready for February - it's going to be a LOVE-ly month! And please remember – no school on February 17<sup>th</sup> (Presidents' Day).

Jane

Our first theme of the month will be community helpers and all the different things they do to help us. There is sure to be talk about what everyone would like to be when they grow up and how they will make the world better.

During the week of Valentine's Day, our focus will be on love and friendship. We talk all year long about how we can be good friends, but it never hurts to pay a little extra attention to kindness, compassion, and consideration. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be "mailing" Valentines to each other at school. Everyone is used to recognizing their own and their friends' names in print by now so signing cards and addressing envelopes should be a breeze. I'll send home a list with the correct spelling of names just in case.

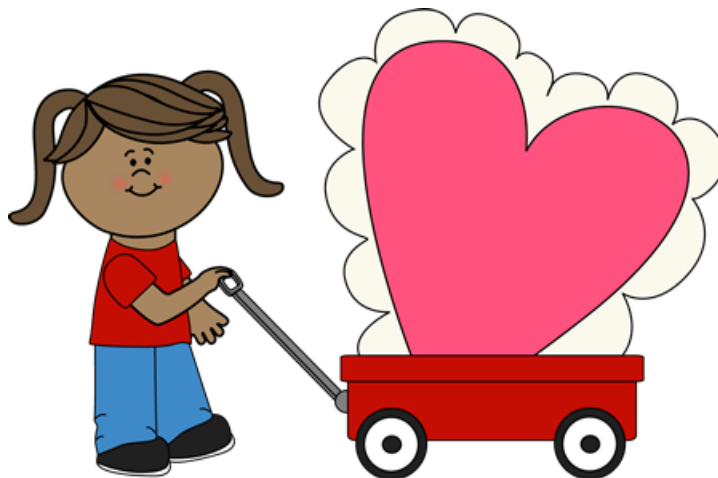
Construction and tools will be the theme during the following week. This is a group that loves to build and create. There will be some cooperative games and projects happening this week. I can't wait to see what they come up with.

Our last week of February will be all about rhyming. Of course a week like this would not be complete without Dr. Seuss!

There are two special events in February. The first is our annual art show. Selected masterpieces created by your talented children will be displayed this month at Kings Park Library. Be sure to arrange a visit. Seeing one's work on exhibit in a public place is very exciting! The second event is VIP Day. On Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, the Big Room will be an open house of crafts and games and fun for the kids and their VIP. The VIP is a parent, relative or special grown-up who doesn't normally get to come to school. It gives the kids a chance to show off their school to someone important to them who doesn't usually get to see it.

2020 is off to a great start. February will be an action packed month. Let's get to it!

Ms. Kelly





## Save the date for PNS Summer Camp!

*May 26 - June 5*

More details soon!

## Keep PNS in the Loop

Have you moved? Changed your cell phone number or work phone? Please keep in mind that these small changes may affect the school's ability to reach your family in case of emergency. If you or your spouse -- or if anyone listed as an emergency contact has new information -- please let PNS know. Contact Stephanie Kibler, VP Forms, via email or at [forms@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:forms@providencenurseryschool.com) with updates.

## 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 messaging Erin Meyer at [erin.meyer2@gmail.com](mailto:erin.meyer2@gmail.com).

## Enrichment

February 12: A swing dancing demonstration and workshop where kids will get to explore communicating without using words.

February 26: Wildlife Ambassadors will present a program featuring Virginian wildlife.

Wonderful Wednesday presentations are at 11:30 am in the Big Room. CDO and 2s students are always welcome with an accompanying adult.

## 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 February. What a fabulous chance for your young artist to see his/her masterpiece displayed in a public setting! Come and enjoy!

## A Marvelous Maintenance Minute

Thanks to the 11 volunteers who attended the January Cleaning and Maintenance Day.

At the special request of Ms. Karen Wallace, we installed sliding trays for paint storage by the painting corner and in the teacher's closet. These should allow for easier viewing and selection of paints, plus also saved enough space to free up an entire shelf in the Teacher's closet. Thanks to Con Dinh and John Chase for completing the install.

PS: And please only pull out one drawer at a time, to keep them from tipping!

Charles Havasy (2s)

PNS Maintenance Chair



## 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. You must also attend one Clean-Up Day per enrolled child.

- Attend the Board Meeting on Monday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. for one volunteer hour.
- Cover Lunch Bunch on February 5th, 12:30-1:30pm.
- Assist our Bulletin Board/Art Show coordinator by breaking down the art show at Kings Park Library.
- Last Clean-Up Day of the year March 28th.

Please check out Sign-up Genius to volunteer. Contact Kathy Brooks (via [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org)) if you have any questions about your volunteer hours or would like to volunteer for one of these.

## Fundraising

- The Fundraising Committee is working on soliciting items for our raffle on March 26th. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about businesses that we could approach, or if you would be willing to drop off, email or mail our form letter. The letter has contact info for the committee - you do not need to use your own name or phone number. E-mail the fundraising committee if you are interested and we will send the letter to you.
- We are working on arranging a couple restaurant nights for the remainder of the school year. If you have suggestions on places to contact please let us know!

Sara Levy  
Emily Gillotte  
[fundraising@providencenurseryschool.org](mailto:fundraising@providencenurseryschool.org)

## Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the March Newsletter please submit it by February 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 the Millward family for hosting the PNS Holiday Party. Thanks to all who donated to the Littlest Tree project. Thank you to the Class Reps: Amy Andrews, Sarah Millward, Laura Heim, Amy Rodgers, and Luisa Blythe for organizing the class gifts for teachers and aides and also for finishing the spring co-op schedules. Thank you to Kristie McCauley for her hard work on registration and Open House. Thank you to Beth Ann Clare and Melissa Johnson for mounting the artwork for the art show and to Maliha Ahmad and Stephanie Kamath for hanging the artwork at King's Park Library.



# February 2020

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						1 <b>Tuition Due</b>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm	11	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>  <i>happy valentines day</i>	15
16	17 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>President's Day</b>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>VIP Day</b> 10am-12pm