

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

# The Providence Pages

*A Letter from Jennifer...*



## Mark your Calendar

### March 2<sup>nd</sup> thru March 10<sup>th</sup>

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

(see calendar for your class's specific day)

### Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**NO SCHOOL**  
**FCPS Holiday**

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

**Board/Annual Membership Meeting**  
7:30pm

(this is a mandatory event)

### Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>

**NO SCHOOL**  
**PACT Conference**

### Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

**Cleaning and Maintenance Day**  
8:30am-11:30am

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



Happy March! I am really looking 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, February 29 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 9th. 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 28 is our next Cleaning & Maintenance Day~~ Thursday, March 26 will be our Spring Playdate and Fundraiser 10 am-12 pm-details to follow.**

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

Beep, beep, beep... when March begins, watch out for the **Construction** zone in the Twos and CDO room! We'll wear safety goggles, use tools and workbenches, put together construction themed puzzles, and operate toy construction vehicles. We'll also read, sing, and pretend about construction trucks and building projects.

Do you know who drives a red truck with a siren, wears a helmet, and sprays water to put out a fire? I bet my students do! During the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll have fun playing guessing games about jobs, try on some different work hats, and use toy people and vehicles to learn about the **Community Helpers** who work in our neighborhoods.

There are many great books about wild animals, some with photos of real animals, and others with beautiful stories and illustrations; I look forward to sharing bunches of books for our **Wild Animals** theme beginning on the 16th. We will try some animal movement activities, and build habitats for toy animals in the classroom.

By the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the season will have officially changed to spring! In the Twos and CDO classes, we'll be paying special attention to **Spring Weather**, with songs and pretend play about rain, wind, and puddles. At Circle Time, we'll try something new: a weather board, which will help us figure out what kind of weather we're observing each day.

All that rain is a natural segue to our final topic for March: **Seeds and Flowers**. We'll take a look at some real seeds and some of the places where we can find them, and start a growing experiment in the classroom.

I look forward to reporting on all of our activities at the **Class Brunches** this month! The CDO brunch will take place on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have no school on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> (FCPS Election Day holiday), so the Twos' brunch will be held the following week, on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Happy spring!

Ms. Auten



February has been so mild, is it possible Spring is coming? Getting outside is such a joy and I desperately want to spend my free time outside in my garden. Fingers crossed no late snow and we can continue to have mild temperatures **for our first class field trip to Hidden Pond on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**.

At the beginning of March, we'll be finishing up our **Transportation on the Water**. That means exploring sink and float as well as recognizing liquids and solids! 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. We'll have out the Pirate Ship, Rocky Boat and Canoe in the Big Room and we'll play with the pretend ship set in the classroom.

The week of March 9<sup>th</sup> 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 revisit our growing rhyming skills with "Construction Nursery Rhymes" based on the classics of Mother Goose. We'll also introduce some Construction Body Exercises to get our motors revving!!

The week of March 23<sup>rd</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. We'll even have special set up on Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, when we go "underground" for part of the day to play in a burrow!

The last week of March we'll talk about the long awaited **Spring: Weather and Rainbows**. 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.

I look forward to meeting with you all for our **Class Brunch on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. This class is starting to get so big and mature, we'll have so many new areas of development to discuss and problem solve!

Ms. Ryan

March...the month of indecision...in like a lion and out like a lamb? Or vice versa? As a true snow lover, I really hate to give up the idea of just ONE good storm before spring. Strange, I know.  
☺

Hickory, Dickory/ Old King Cole/Humpty Dumpty, etc...what do we have in store for the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>? Rhyme Time Week, of course! We will sing rhymes, dance rhymes, and even rhyme rhymes! This is such an important preschool skill – but it's such fun for the kids that the week will fly by! Stand by for lots of corny, preschool humor...in rhyme time!

Then we will enter into the world of Fairy Tales. During the week of 3/9-3/12, I am sure that many 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. When we go "On the Bell" that week, we will write our own fairy tales in small groups...and then illustrate them, too! It will truly be a magical week!!

Then it's time for one of my very favorite units...construction vehicles. During the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be discovering all sorts of information about different types of construction trucks. We will experiment with the forces of motion and we will review what we learned about push/pull during Science Week. There will also be a very special field trip 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? Meg will send us all the details as we get closer to "the" day.

A new theme will be introduced during the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>...All about Numbers. Can you imagine how much counting will be going on during that week...we will play with numbers, practice our 1-to-1 counting skills, sing and dance about numbers, and maybe even do some cooking so that we can talk about measurements using numbers. The sky is the limit!

The end of March will find us flying into a study of birds...and why they are so special. What makes a bird a bird? Can all birds fly? Do all birds have feathers? Let's find out! It's bound to be quite chirpy around our classroom that week!

There is no school on Tuesday, 3/3, as it is Primary Day in Virginia and FCPS is closed. There is also no school on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>...all the teachers and instructional assistants will be at the spring PACT Conference. 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!

Our Spring class brunch will be held on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30. I hope you will plan on joining me for another lively session. Also don't forget the General Membership Meeting that will be held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please 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!.

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 are R(3/2), Q/U(3/9), C/K(3/16), I(3/23), and G(3/30)/

It's going to be a marvelous March!

Best, Jane

Well this winter sure has been a bust! As I am writing this, I have to admit I am finally giving up on winter and looking forward to a delightful spring. Although I do enjoy a good snowstorm, the upside of a warm winter is that I didn't have to miss any time at school with your kids.

We have some fun themes planned for the 4s class in March. The first week will be all about fairy tales. We will discuss all the key components of a fairy tale, read the classics, and put on our author and illustrator hats to come up with our own original fairy tales. I'm sure the week will end happily ever after.

The following week will be all about robots. There will be many opportunities to explore shapes, colors, and patterns this week. We will also become inventors and create our own robots using random materials found around school.

The kids know I love a good science experiment, and there will be plenty of them happening during the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will practice making predictions and educated guesses while getting comfortable with the idea that things don't always work out as planned (especially when Ms. Kelly is involved).

The last week of the month, we'll be learning about birds. Be prepared for backpacks full of feathery creations. We will focus on differences in beaks and wings and the variety of habitats in which we find all types of birds. There will surely be some observation walks outside to spy on the many birds who love to build their nests on and around our school.

We will end the month with our field trip to Hidden Pond on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This will kick off our pond life theme for the first week of April (!!!). Remember there is no school on March 3<sup>rd</sup> due to a FCPS

holiday and also on March 26<sup>th</sup> when the PNS staff goes to our annual spring PACT conference. Our second parent/teacher brunch will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be an informal get together where we can chat and share questions and ideas.

I can hardly believe that after March, we only have two short months together before the end of the year. It will be busy, and I know the time is going to fly by. I am looking forward to all the fun we are going to have!

-Ms. 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 26-June 5, 2019. Space is still available in both the 3s and 4/5s classes. Visit [www.providencenurseryschool.com](http://www.providencenurseryschool.com) under the Summer Camp tab for more information.

## Enrollment

We currently have open spots in CDO, 2s, 3s, and 3/4s for the 2020-2021 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.

## Mandatory Membership Meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2020-2021 Officers (formerly Executive Board), listed below. The monthly board meeting will follow, and all are welcome to stay.

## PNS Officers 2020-2021

President – Tina Long\*  
 Vice President of Administration – Kathy Brooks  
 Vice President of Membership/Enrollment - Kristie McCauley  
 Vice President of Membership/Forms – Stephanie Kibler  
 Treasurer – Erin Meyer\*  
 Secretary – Amy Andrews\*

\*-new to the board

## Enrichment

On March 11, Groovy Nate® will return to Providence Nursery School for another Wonderful Wednesday program. Groovy Nate® is a children's entertainer who creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments and puppet skits -- a la Sesame Street meets Parliament/Funkadelic. CDO and 2s students are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- March 6, 10 - Parent Brunch Coverage
- March 9 – Attend board meeting at 7:30pm (after required annual membership meeting)
- March 26 - Spring Raffle/Playdate. A sign-up for refreshments and help with set-up and cleanup is forthcoming from the Fundraising committee.
- March 28 – Clean-Up and Maintenance Day. This is a great way to earn volunteer hours if you have not already completed your requirement. This is the last Clean-Up and Maintenance Day of the school year.

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 Kathy Brooks via [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.org) if you have any questions or concerns about earning hours.

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

## Fundraising

Join us on Thursday, March 26th for the Spring Raffle and Playdate at PNS. The theme this year will be One Fish Two Fish. There will be fun crafts/activities as well as snacks.

- Admission is \$5 for kids 2 years and older (younger children welcome free of charge)
- This is NOT a drop off event!
- Raffle tickets will be on sale mornings after drop off beginning Monday, March 23rd 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  
Emily Gillotte Fundraising Co-Chairs  
[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 April Newsletter please submit it by March 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 Kristie McCauley for her hard work on enrollment and the Open House. Thank you to those who volunteered at our Open House. Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Alex Hume, Tina Long, Stephanie Kibler and Kathy Brooks for working to come up with the slate of nominees for next year's board. Thanks to Jane Millward and Julie Agar for representing PNS at the Burke Preschool Fair.



# March 2020

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