

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

October/November

Brunch for Parents
TBD

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

Saturday October 10^h

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

Monday October 12th

FCPS Student Holiday
No School

Monday October 19th

PNS Board Meeting
7:30pm

October 29th, & 30th

Halloween Parades
TBD

The start of our school year may have been different, but the excitement has been the same! What a relief to have smiling faces and first day of school pictures- a small sense of normal in a time when everything else is upside down. A huge thank you to our wonderful teachers and aides, who had to set aside years of routines and experience to develop, implement, and joyfully execute a brand new preschool program! Thank you to all the PNS families who have shown such flexibility and patience to get us to this point. Our children are having a great time with the outdoor program and are doing fabulous with the “new normal.” The start of our school year brought along fall weather which means our children will enjoy plenty of stories, games, and crafts to celebrate the new season all while being outside in it! Remember to label all of your child’s layers as they tend to come off throughout the day.

Our second clean-up and maintenance day of the year will be held on Saturday, October 10th; masks required and social distancing will be in effect. There is always lots to do to keep the preschool looking spiffy, and now we have more outside improvements to work through! PNS is closed on Monday, October 12th for Indigenous People/Columbus Day. Our monthly board meeting will be held on October 19th and all are invited to attend via Zoom; we discuss how our program is working and any changes that may need to be made. To end this month, we will be exploring how to safely have our annual Halloween parade. Look for more details towards the end of the month. For the parents, also stay tuned for our plans for class brunches. Thank you all for making the decision to be a part of our community, and for your diligence to keep your exposures minimal; I know for many families this means sacrifices in other areas. Hopefully, the excitement on your child’s face to be able to see their new friends each week makes it all worth it. Here’s to a month of many more smiles!

Amanda



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

CDO &

2's

Starting a new school year is always exciting and full of firsts... and this year is even more so. It is a joy to be back at preschool this fall; although it looks a little different, all of the important pieces are still in place: friends, fun, and learning!

Our class has spent our first few days getting to know new friends, using photos to learn classmates' names. We've found hooks to hang up backpacks, and learned some playground safety rules.

We've been learning a new routine for preschool mornings, too. Each morning after checking in, the students find something new to play with on the playground, whether it's sand toys, bouncy balls, or construction trucks. When the bell rings, it's time for Circle, and we spread out on our picnic blankets along with our lion mascot, Albert, to read and talk and pretend about our topic of the week. In September, we read and sang about Washing, and then about Faces and Feelings.

Our first topic for **October** will be **My Family**. We'll talk about the people in our family; who lives with us in our homes, and who do we call on the phone or on video? Are there any pets who live in our houses? We'll share photos from home, and play with toys that build vocabulary about homes and families.

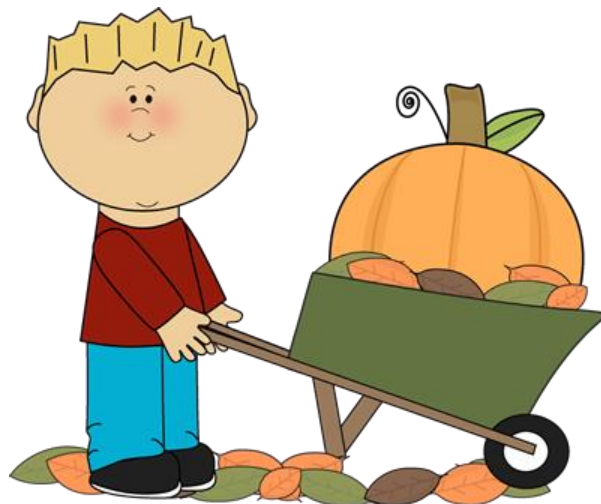
The following week, the week of October 12th, our theme will be **Body Parts and Clothing**. We'll do plenty of moving around as we identify major parts of the body, and describe the clothes we're wearing using color and texture words.

One of the benefits of our outdoor classroom is that it is like a built-in laboratory to explore things like **Fall Leaves**, which are our topic for the week of October 19th! We'll use leaves for art, leaves for science, leaves for learning about colors, and even use imaginary leaves for pretending!

Finally, Halloween week is **Pumpkin** week at preschool! For the week beginning the 26th, we'll examine a real pumpkin, sing a pumpkin song, and read about Halloween traditions.

The Twos/CDO class is off to a great start and has more to look forward to. Happy fall, everyone!

Ms. Auten



It has been a joyful return to preschool; your children have proven to be adaptable, resilient, and ready to find the fun wherever we happen to be! Our little Threes' class has spent our first two weeks learning our way around a completely new routine. They have learned to find their own cubbies by identifying their shape icons, and to follow all the new check-in steps and then find an independent place to play on the front porch. We have tried out some different outdoor spaces, worked together to answer a Question of the Day at Circle Time, read books, played with toys, and created art.

In September, our first themes have centered around some of the new safety procedures -- Washing, and Faces (with face masks) and Feelings. We started collecting ideas for our class book, starring the students and teachers in our class and our answers to the Question of the Day.

In **October**, we'll continue to add ideas to our class book, starting with our topic for the week of the 5th, **My Family**. We'll talk about the people (and pets) in our family, and the things that families do together. Our theme for the week of October 12th is **Body Parts and Clothing**; we'll compare different textured materials, and try some new games.

Now that we have adapted to our new setting and plan, we're ready to add in another piece of the Threes' experience: **Bike Day!** Weather-permitting, we will have our first Bike Day on Wednesday, October 14th. Students should bring a helmet from home that day in order to participate. I will send an update and reminder closer to that date.

One of the benefits of our outdoor classroom is that it is like a built-in laboratory to explore things like **Fall Leaves**, which are our topic for the week of October 19th. We'll be out and about looking at leaves with binoculars, and collecting and sorting leaves for a color challenge! Finally, per tradition, the last week in October is not only Halloween week, it's **Pumpkin** week! What better place to dissect a pumpkin and make a mess than outside?

I am so proud of your Threes and all they can do – and I'm looking forward to all the new things we'll try this month together! Happy fall, everyone!

Ms. Auten



3/4's & 4's

Can you believe October is here already? Our love of bright colors, crisp air, college football, and pumpkin spice is just one of the many things the two of us have in common. At PNS, we are looking forward to a month of exploration and discovery...and of course, the sounds of your happy children tromping through the fallen leaves in our fabulous outdoor classroom!

The month starts off with a week devoted to colors and shapes. There will be lots of observation and discovery of the colors and shapes that surround us each day. Take some time during your drives to and from school to count numbers of shapes and colors you see. I wonder how many octagons, rectangles, and blue cars you will see!

During the week of October 12th, we will be learning all about our five senses. We will be seeing, hearing, smelling, and tasting all kind of interesting things. We will be sure to mention the sense of touch although we are trying to keep our touching of things to a minimum this year. (:

Body parts will be up next. How many body parts can your little one name and explain what they do for us? This is always a fun topic to explore!

The last week of October will be all about Halloween and fun. Our annual Halloween parade is currently scheduled for Thursday, October 29th. As with everything else this year, it is sure to look a little different, but we are determined to make it work! Stay tuned to your email for more information.

October signals the start of our "Star of the Day" program. We will send home a calendar each month which assigns each child "their" special day. Again, it will have to be different this year, but rest assured that each child can look forward to having a day to shine!

The Monday gang will start working with some introductory letter activities also in October. We'll take a look at one letter at a time and incorporate a variety of active, hands-on learning experiences which are developmentally appropriate for your four year old. The letter of the week will be listed on your monthly calendars along with the star of the day.

So we are off and running and having a great time! We had a wonderful start in September, and October is bound to be even more fun. Our parent/teacher brunch will be coming up soon. We will send you details once we have a date and "place" confirmed.

Here's to a month that's packed with fun and colorful experiences for everyone!

-Kelly and Jane

Reminder: October 12th is a holiday for FCPS, so PNS will be closed as well.



Tuition

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. For ease of processing, e-payments are preferred. You can pay via e-check or credit card in Jovial (with CC payments, the 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. If you choose to write a check, please make it payable to "Providence Nursery School, Inc." and mail it to: Providence Nursery School, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031. Payments postmarked after the 10th of the month will incur the \$25 late fee.

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

Enrollment

As teachers are feeling more comfortable with the new format of this year, we will begin with new enrollment. If you know of any families that are looking for an open, safe preschool, feel free to pass our program information along and have them contact enrollment@providencenurseryschool.org

Parent Education

As a reminder, parents are still asked to complete their 4 parent education hours this year even though we are not co-oping at this time. You received ½ hour for Back to School Night. You can read a parenting book, attend a webinar, or participate in a parenting group. We have a short form for you to complete should you do one of those things so you can receive credit. We will be looking into virtual parent education opportunities for this year as well.

The FCPS parent resource center offers free webinars on parenting topics:

<https://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center/register-free-workshops-parent-resource-center>

Maintenance Committee

Thanks to our six volunteers, including Bill Millward, and our four teachers/aides who helped ready the school for the start of the school year on September 19.

Do you own a 4000 psi pressure washer? One of our Committee members owns a 2000 psi pressure washer, which will work great, but we could use a higher power one for cleaning the playground equipment on October 10. Please let Charles Havasy (chavasy@aol.com) know if you can assist.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Sign for playground- need someone to find printer, design and hang sign on playground- 1 hour credit
- Attend the board meeting for 1 hour credit
- Small outdoor improvements that can be done during the week
- Clean up and maintenance day- 1 required per enrolled child, 3 hours volunteer after that
- Donate Wipes or Lysol cleaning sprays (check that they are EPA approved here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>) We will be posting on the Facebook Group page "sightings" of Clorox or Lysol wipes and sprays when seen in the area. They are frequently limited to 1 per customer, so your assistance in maintaining our wipe supply is greatly appreciated by the teachers. Don't fear, we have other approved cleaning supplies; wipes are just the easiest!

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!

I know generally thank yous are directed at individual people and families. However, I truly want to thank every single member of our preschool- parents, teachers, aides, and spouses. Every family has helped in some way, either through contributing to the re-opening committee, sitting on the board, or participating in maintenance day. The love for this school has truly been reflected in the time, effort, and care that has been given to get us safely open. I also want to thank Providence Presbyterian Church, their property committee, and Reverend Burns, all of whom have been incredibly generous this year to support our re-opening in many ways.



October 2020

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Tuition Due	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
11	12 NO SCHOOL FCPS Student Holiday	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Board Meeting 7:30pm	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Parade 2s, 3/4s, & 4s TBD	30 Halloween Parade 3s TBD	31 Halloween 