

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

March 29th thru April 2nd

**NO SCHOOL
Spring Break**

**April 5th
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday**

**Monday April 12th
Board Meeting
7:30pm**

**April
Parent Teacher Conferences
TBD**

**Monday April 26th
Spring Coffee
7:30pm**

**April 26th thru April 30th
Teacher Appreciation Week**

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



Happy spring to you all!

As we head into the last two months of the school year, I'd like to give recognition to the officers of the board who have helped run our school this year. A big thank you to Stephanie Kibler and Erin Meyer for navigating through all the "new" this year has brought. Thank you also to Jennifer Harmon for stepping up as secretary, and for Sarah Millward, Meredyth Havasy and Emily Gillotte for helping to cover the VP Enrollment position. Sarah will be transitioning to VP Admin and Laura Kaplan is taking on VP Enrollment for 2021-2022. The new officers will be taking over at the April 12th board meeting. We are still looking for a new president- perhaps consider taking this position with a friend; the more board members we have, the less work it is!

As you know, school is closed this week (March 29-April 2nd) as well as Monday, April 5th for Spring Break and an FCPS Student Holiday. The April 12th board meeting will be held at 7:30 virtually; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. As the first meeting with the new officers, it's a great time to learn about how the board works, expectations of officers, and to start thinking about what position you might like to take in the future.

If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on Monday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m., held virtually this year. This is a required meeting for all new and returning parents. It's a time to meet other parents in your child's upcoming class, meet the board, and discuss member responsibilities. This is not an event with anything for kids, so you can keep your child's bedtime! You should have received the link with your enrollment confirmation email, and an invitation will go out closer to the events as well.

During the month of April, teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences. Please be on the lookout for sign ups sent out by the teachers. We will also be sending parent surveys sometime this month; this is a great opportunity to share your thoughts about this year, suggestions, or your hopes for PNS as we head into our 50th year next year!

We will have the chance to celebrate our amazing teachers the last week of April during Teacher Appreciation Week. Your class reps will be spearheading this opportunity to show our gratitude.

Finally, as I wrap up my term as Board President, I'd like to say how grateful I am for having had this opportunity to serve. It has been a challenging year, for sure, but I would do it all again if it gave my child the chance to attend PNS! This school allows for such a unique experience in that parents get to participate in such a profound way, yet our children still get to experience that step into independence. This year I have missed co-opting so much - I love knowing who teaches my child, knowing her classroom & classmates, and learning the "preschool lingo." I like that I can walk in to PNS and feel like I belong, rather than being a visitor. I am so happy that PNS will get that back next year and sad to miss it.

Amanda

CDO & 2's

In the Twos and CDO class, there are always choices to make, whether it's deciding on a color of paint, which toy to play with first, or when mittens are needed. In addition to building confidence, making decisions by **comparing** is an important early math skill! When we return from Spring Break in the week of April 5th, we'll use the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, along with props, sensory materials, and pretend play, to practice comparing amounts and sizes using important vocabulary such as *more* and *less*, *bigger* and *smaller*.

The following week, the Big Room will be ringing with the sounds of hammers, drills, and saws, as we get out the toy tools and workbenches for our **Tools and Construction** theme. Circle Time will be full of new sounds, too, as we try out some new kinds of instruments, and move all our limbs to a hammer song!

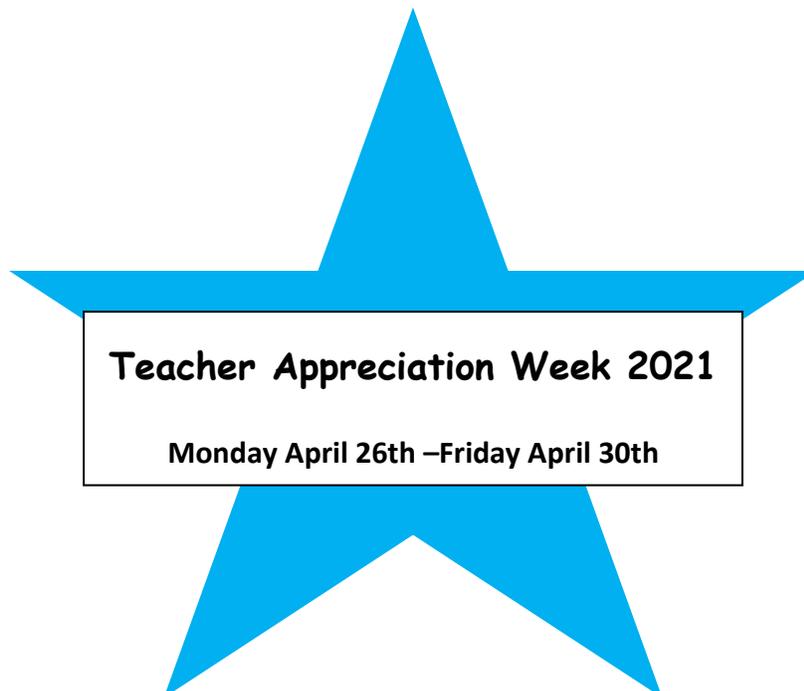
The Very Hungry Caterpillar is one of my favorite stories to share; it has counting, and beautiful illustrations of fruit, suspense, just a touch of silliness, and a very satisfying ending. The only thing missing is a connection to real life. Happily,

this month our preschool will be hosting some *real* caterpillars in the Big Room! The week of April 19th, we will learn about **Caterpillars and Butterflies**, and get to watch these fascinating insects eat, form chrysalises, and transform into real butterflies to be released into the church gardens.

What's growing **in the Garden**? For the final week in April, beginning on the 26th, we'll talk about how plants grow, and examine the parts of a plant to see the stems and leaves sprouting up, and roots growing down. We can do some exploring, and find out what lives in the garden above and below the ground.

I look forward to meeting with each of you, whether in person or online, for a spring parent-teacher conference this month. It is always wonderful to be able to hear about and report on all of the amazing things your children are doing now, and how much they have grown this school year!

Ms. Auten



Ahh, Spring. It's not too hot, not too cold... it's just right! Like the changing seasonal temperatures, the porridge, chairs, and beds in the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* offer us a great opportunity to use the important math concepts of **Comparing and Measuring**. When we return from Spring Break in the week of April 5th, we'll read and pretend about the three bears, and use bowls, pizza boxes, and other props to help us understand and use comparing words. Then we'll try using some measuring instruments to practice comparing sizes and weights.

All that measuring is sure to come in handy the following week, too, when we get out the tools and workbenches for our **Tools and Construction** theme. We'll draw inspiration from another hapless trio of animals -- *The Three Little Pigs* --and experiment with building materials to figure out why that third pig was the most successful.

Butterflies are our focus for the week of April 19th, and what better way to learn than to watch some real butterflies in action? The whole preschool will be watching closely as we host some *real* caterpillars who will eat, form a chrysalis, and transform into butterflies to release into the church's gardens! We'll create butterfly-inspired art, read about caterpillars and butterflies, and stretch and flap our wings.

Our final theme in April, the week of the 26th, will be **In the Garden**. We'll consult some fiction and non-fiction books to help us sort out which things grow and which things do not, learn about garden-friendly worms, and study a potato as it grows roots and sprouts.

Meanwhile, we'll continue to spend plenty of time outdoors. Our **Bike Days** this month will be Wednesday the 7th and the Wednesday 21st. We'll keep working on those turn-taking and good sportsmanship skills with group games, too, both indoors and out.

This spring, I see new growth everywhere I look – outside, in the garden, and certainly in the thriving Threes!

Ms. Auten



3-4's & 4's

Springtime has finally sprung at Providence Nursery School! Our class has loved playing outside in the cold and snow, but we are ready to move on to warmer weather. We should get lots of bike riding, truck pushing, sandbox playing, and picnicking outside in the next several weeks. April is going to be a fun and busy month for the 3/4s and 4s class!

Following spring break, we'll start the month off discussing the workers in our neighborhoods. Community helpers week is always a time filled with lively conversations and great dramatic play opportunities. There is sure to be talk about what everyone would like to be when they grow up and how they will make the world a better place.

It seems that searching for and discovering worms never gets old for this bunch. They absolutely squeal with delight whenever we head out to splash in puddles knowing that is prime time to find worms. So as part of our underground theme during the week of April 11, we will spend some extra time learning more about our wiggly, slimy little buddies.

Then on the 18th, we will begin our unit on springtime in the garden. We'll talk about all the changes that are occurring with this new season, and we'll learn about what grows in the garden and why. There will be lots of activities involving flowers and veggies. We may even plant a plant or two!

We will end the month discussing pond life. The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the little creatures that live in, and around, ponds. We will investigate frogs, turtles, fish, snakes, and more. Stand by for lots of creepy, crawly art, math, and science experiments during the week of April 25th!

Our Monday gang will continue to work their way through the alphabet with letters G, E, and J this month.

Conferences will be held at the end of April this year. We are looking forward to seeing you all through the computer screen again to discuss all the growth we've seen in your children since January. Stay tuned to your email for a sign up genius coming soon.

It's definitely going to be a busy month. We are looking forward to all the action!

- Jane and Kelly



Forms for Families Returning for the 2021-2022 School Year

April is the beginning of Forms Season! If your family is returning to PNS for the 2021-2022 school year, you can expect to receive an email about your required forms around April 10th. Forms will look very similar to last year - please note that there are several forms that you will have to fill out even if you did the same form before! As usual, forms will be due by June 1st - the email will contain instructions about how forms are to be filled out and turned in.

If you have any questions once you receive your forms email (or don't receive it by April 15th), please email me as soon as possible. I'm actually due to give birth to another future PNS student right in the middle of Forms season (beginning of May), so emailing questions sooner rather than later will help tremendously as my response time may be slow leading up to the June 1st deadline!

Stephanie Kibler

forms@providencenurseryschool.org

VP of Membership - Forms

Enrollment

Spots for the 2021-2022 school year are filling fast! We have only a few spots remaining for 4 year olds, so if you are considering PNS for next year- register now before we are full! Please share our school with your friends and neighbors, and be sure to check out our Facebook page for an easy way to like and share all the fun we have.

Spring Coffee

Returning families: Mark your calendars for April 26th at 7:30pm! At this mandatory meeting, you will have the opportunity to refresh your mind about the preschool in a "normal" year (co-oping! volunteer opportunities! family jobs!) and meet fellow parents in your upcoming class. This year it will be held virtually, so stay in your PJs and grab a snack. Parent participation will be expected for the last half of the meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

While we have not been enforcing volunteer hours as a requirement for re-enrollment in this strange year, we are still a co-operative preschool run by parent volunteers! There are many outstanding opportunities that you can be involved in your child's preschool experience to make it even richer! These include making materials for your child's class, assisting the board with some paperwork, and helping prepare for the 50th anniversary. All opportunities can be completed at your convenience and in your own home. Please contact Amanda (president@providencenurseryschool.org) for more details. As always, you can attend the monthly board meeting for volunteer credit- April is a great time to learn how the board works!

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in the One Hope Wine fundraiser! Please be on the lookout in April and May for another online bookfair fundraiser, as well as another restaurant night. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Emily Gillotte

Fundraising Chair

emedee@hotmail.com

Maintenance Minute

Do you have woodworking skills? We are in need of someone to make some shelves for the 4s classroom. Plans, materials funds, and volunteer hours are available; please contact Charles Havasy at chavasy@aol.com if you can help.

Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the May Newsletter please submit it by April 20th. If you have any suggestions or things you would like to see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

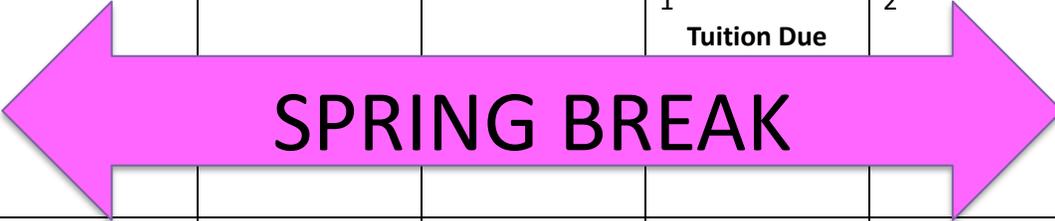
Thank you,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com

Thank You!

Thank you to Emily Gillotte for our fundraisers this year! Thank you to Nari Kim, Hien Phan, and Jennifer Harmon von Bredow for serving on the Board Nominating Committee. Thank you to Nari Kim for keeping our fish healthy and happy! Thank you to Charles Havasy, Ryan Doan and Con Dinh for keeping our school looking great and safe (and lit!).



April 2021

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Tuition Due	2	3
 SPRING BREAK						
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 	5 NO SCHOOL FCPS Holiday	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting 7:30pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Spring Coffee 7:30pm	27	28	29	30	