

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

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

March
Brunch for Parents
TBD

Monday March 8th
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Holiday

Monday March 15th
Board/Annual Membership Meeting
7:30pm
(this is a mandatory event)

Saturday March 20th
Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

March 29th thru April 2nd
NO SCHOOL
Spring Break

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



Typically this time of year, I'm longing for signs of spring and warmer weather. But this March, all I can think is "we've been doing this for a year." One year since the world turned upside down. 52 weeks of weighing the pros and cons of making an extra grocery trip for the forgotten yogurt. 365 days since some of us have seen family; sanitizing everything, having a "favorite" face mask, and mastering Zoom calls. This March, I'm not longing for spring- I'm longing for my old sense of careless existence! I am so grateful that PNS has been able to provide a place where my child can have that sense of freedom- to play with friends, swing on a tire swing, and eat green eggs and ham without a care in the world. You know who made that happen? PARENTS!

As we close out enrollment for in-house families and welcome back alumni families, we are also forming our board for next year. At our March Membership meeting (March 15th), we will vote in the new board that will lead us into the 2021-2022 school year and allow that sense of childhood wonder to continue no matter what is happening around us.

I encourage you to volunteer your time for a board position. To put it bluntly: it's not a request for help, it's a requirement to keep the school open. We are precariously low on board members, to the point that if positions are not filled, the preschool as we know it will not be able to operate. As a co-operative preschool, we are solely run by parent volunteers- many family jobs are crucial to PNS's smooth running, but board positions ensure the existence of the preschool both now and into the future. Next year- PNS's 50th year- the path has been laid for you! And the more board members there are, the less the burden on each position. Don't hesitate to volunteer because you think all positions are filled, don't know what you would do, or are worried about the time commitment. Reach out! Let us know what you are able to give, and we can match you to a position or co-position that will meet your needs and interests.

The mandatory membership meeting is on March 15th at 7:30pm. At least one parent from each currently enrolled family is required to attend. Per our bylaws, this is the one time per year that all PNS membership is required to vote. You will elect your board for the next year, and the officers will then vote on your behalf on all preschool matters throughout the school year. The vote will take place right at the beginning of the meeting, and will take only a few minutes. You are then free to log off or stay for the monthly board meeting. Some other dates to remember: Monday, March 8th there is no school & Virtual Open House (volunteers needed!) 7:30-8:30pm; Saturday, March 20th is our next and possibly final Cleaning & Maintenance Day; and Spring break begins on Monday, March 29th.

Thank you for being a part of the PNS community, and please consider stepping up to the board to help keep the school going as we know it!

Amanda

CDO & 2's

E-I-E-I-O! The CDO and Twos' class will be continuing their two-week **Farm** theme when March begins. We'll examine wheat and straw, use the felt board and pretend play to help us remember and understand nursery rhymes about farm animals... and we *never* get tired of singing "Old MacDonald!"

Birds are the stars of the week of March 8th. There are many birds nesting, flying, and chirping right around the preschool. We'll read about birds and what they do and need, then go out to see what our real bird neighbors are doing. Egg shakers will make the perfect musical instruments for this week. Expect to see at least a few feathers coming home on art projects, too!

Spring weather brings rain and puddles, wind and kites. For our **Weather** theme the week of March 15th, we'll celebrate all of these interesting things. We'll talk about what we like and don't like about rain, pretend to stomp in puddles, and sing "Rain, Rain, Go Away." We'll read and pretend about a windy day. Painting with watercolors is one of those tricky multi-step art processes; we'll figure out the steps to make spring paintings with watercolors. Of course, we'll make our own weather observations outdoors, too, and look for the first signs of spring together.

Ribbit, ribbit! Our final theme for March is **Pond Life**. The Twos will happily hop and quack through the week of March 22nd, counting ducks and turtles, and getting our hands dirty as we splash in a pretend pond of real mud.

Welcome, Spring!

Ms. Auten



What will the weather be like today? That will be a big question on our minds in March, as we look for signs of the official start of spring on our outdoor explorations, and perhaps take more of our activities back outdoors. Weather permitting, this month's **Bike Days** will be on Wednesday the 10th and Wednesday the 24th.

But first... back to the **Farm!** The first week of March we'll be wrapping up our farm theme, focusing on the rhyming sounds in some of those animal nursery rhymes. I wonder how many rhymes we can come up with at Circle Time? We'll also try our hand at the grain-harvesting process along with *The Little Red Hen!*

Our theme for the week of March 8th will be **Birds**. We will read about different kinds of birds that live near and far, and listen to some recordings of bird songs for familiar sounds – and some new and unusual ones! Outside, we'll make and hang bird feeders for our neighborhood birds and be bird-watchers as we walk around the preschool grounds.

March 15th is **Weather Week**, in anticipation of the official start of spring at the end of the week. Our weather observers and reporters will be busy this week, as we study the clouds, read and sing about rain storms, and add a weather report to Circle Time.

Our final theme this month takes us to the **Pond** beginning on March 22nd, where we will get our hands muddy and learn about pond habitats and their amphibian and reptile residents. Spring Break falls on the last week of March this year.

I can't wait to dig into spring with the Threes!

Ms. Auten



3-4's & 4's

As this newsletter is being written in mid-February, the weather outside is just plain unstable...and fickle! No one knows what is going to expect next...warm temps, snow, sleet, blue skies, ice, repeat etc. Ahh, it's all just is a mystery when we wake up every morning. But in this class, we just keep keepin' on...and loving every day! ☺ March is going to be no different...full of excitement and lots of fun

First comes a week beginning March 1st that is filled with nothing but rhymes! Nursery rhymes will be front and center as we sing rhymes, dance rhymes, and even rhyme rhymes! Rhyming is a very important prereading skill – but it's such fun for the kids that they won't even know that they are learning! We will also do some problem solving for a few of the nursery rhyme characters, using our developing thinking skills. Good stuff going on here!

Then we will enter into the world of Fairy Tales during the week of 3/9 – 3/11. We are sure that 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! A truly magical week!!

And then comes one of our very favorite units...construction vehicles. During the week of March 15th, we'll be discussing all sorts of information about different types, and purposes, of construction trucks. We will also experiment with the forces of motion. The Tonka trucks on the playground will be getting a workout, we are sure, this week!

Next in line is a very interesting week (beginning 3/22) where we will be investigating NUMBERS! We will identify, pattern, classify, serialize, sequence, measure, graph...and anything else we can think of that uses numbers. These kids just love anything to do with numbers!

Please don't forget the General Membership Meeting that will be held virtually on Monday, March 15th. Do plan to attend...virtually, of course! The election of officers for next year's PNS Board will be held. Time at the meeting will be time well spent! There is no school on Monday, March 8th ...it's an FCPS holiday. Spring Break will be March 29-April 5th.

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 will R(1), C/K (3/15), and O(3/22).

It's registration season at PNS...please tell your friends and neighbors to come "see" us on March 8th at our Virtual Open House. We need to get the word out that Providence Nursery School is the place to be! ☺

It's going to be a marvelous March!

Kelly and Jane



Enrollment

Most families join PNS because our current and alumni families recommend us! Feel free to direct interested families to our updated website, share/re-post information from our Facebook page, or recommend us on NextDoor. While enrollment for 2021-2022 is not open to new families yet, we anticipate having at least some openings in all classes.

Mandatory Membership Meeting is March 15th

Our annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 15th at 7:30. A zoom link will be shared closer to the date. This is a mandatory meeting. One member of each current PNS family must be in attendance in order to vote for the 2021-2022 Officers (formerly Executive Board); nominees are being determined as we complete enrollment and will be announced via email prior to the meeting. The monthly board meeting will follow, and all are welcome to stay but not required.

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.

Fundraising

We are having a spring fundraiser with One Hope Wine, and will earn 30% of all proceeds. Please visit this link to shop:

<https://www.onehopewine.com/event/92368>

Feel free to share the link with family, friends and PNS alumnae! Our fundraiser will run through March 31. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me!

Emily Gillotte
emedee@hotmail.com
 Fundraising Chair

Volunteer Opportunities

Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

- Looking for parent volunteers on March 8 7:30pm-8:30pm to be available during Virtual Open House to answer questions about your preschool experience. No in-depth knowledge of the preschool required!
- Clean-Up and Maintenance Day: Easy way to earn 3 hours if you have already completed your required day! This may be the last clean up and maintenance day this year!
- Seeking volunteers for the Officer nominating committee: 1 hour volunteer credit; you don't need to be a returning family, and knowing other parents is a plus!

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 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 Sarah Millward for her hard work on enrollment and organizing the Virtual Open House. Thank you to Chai Kale & Bill Millward for their work on the website. Thank you to Stephanie Kibler for her work on updating forms & registration. Thank you to Erin Meyer for her work on our budget, tuition, and grants & loans. Thank you to the Gunns and Kaplans for their work in keeping the preschool clean during off hours. Thank you to Leah and Jose Peralta for organizing our emergency kit.

March 2021

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