

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL  
9019 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE  
FAIRFAX, VA 20031  
www.providencenurseryschool.com

# THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

## *A Letter from Jennifer...*

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 outgoing executive board members who have helped run our school this year. I'd like to give a big thank you to Kelley Raich, Liz Claeys and Alex Hume who will be leaving the board this year. Thanks also to Stephanie and Dan Jensen, Carisa Pineda, Kristie McCauley, Elizabeth and Bo Boland, and Jonathan Liljegren for all they have done this past year and for staying on to serve again. They will be joined by new board members Laura Heim, Anna Fiser and John and Sarah Millward. The 2017-2018 E-board will take over at the April meeting.

The Spring Fundraiser, a play date and annual Raffle, will be held at school in the Big Room on March 30. Teachers will be at a conference all day but stay tuned for information about the fun plans. This is not a drop off event, so plan to stay and play with your kids.

Our Spring Break is April 10-17. School will resume on April 18.

The April 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be held at 7:30 in the Big Room and as always, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. As the first meeting with the new board, this is a great opportunity to introduce yourself and bring up any thoughts you have for the coming year.

Another important meeting to start preparations for the upcoming school year is soon. If you are returning to PNS next year, mark your calendars for the Spring Coffee on April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Taylor Hall (upstairs in the church). This is a required meeting for all new and returning parents. This is not a kid friendly event, so please plan to leave your children at home. An invitation including more details will be sent via email soon.

Also during the month of April, teachers will be holding conferences during the week of April 17 and on April 24 and we have our last cleaning and maintenance day on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Finally, as I wrap up my first year as Board President, I'd like to say how grateful I am for having had this opportunity to serve. I am excited to serve again next year! Thank you!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring fundraiser on March 30.

*Jennifer*



## Mark your Calendar

**April 10<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Break

**Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL  
FCPS Holiday  
Board Meeting  
7:30pm

**April 18<sup>th</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
(sign up for times with your teacher)

**Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Cleaning & Maintenance Day  
8:30am-11:30am

**Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Coffee  
7:30pm

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> thru May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Teacher Appreciation Week

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## CDO & 2's

April showers bring... puddles! It's going to be a great month for getting back outdoors to observe changes in the environment; we'll look for new leaves, listen for birds, find worms, and maybe even stomp in some of those puddles.

There will be signs of spring *inside* the preschool, too: first, the Big Room will become a Farmers' Market, with flowers, fruit stands, and cash registers. Then the sensory table will bring the outdoors in, with dirt to dig in, and natural materials to sift through. We'll continue to observe our class potato plants as they grow roots and sprout in their containers on the window sill. Please remember to dress your child for spring activities – think puddles and dirt!

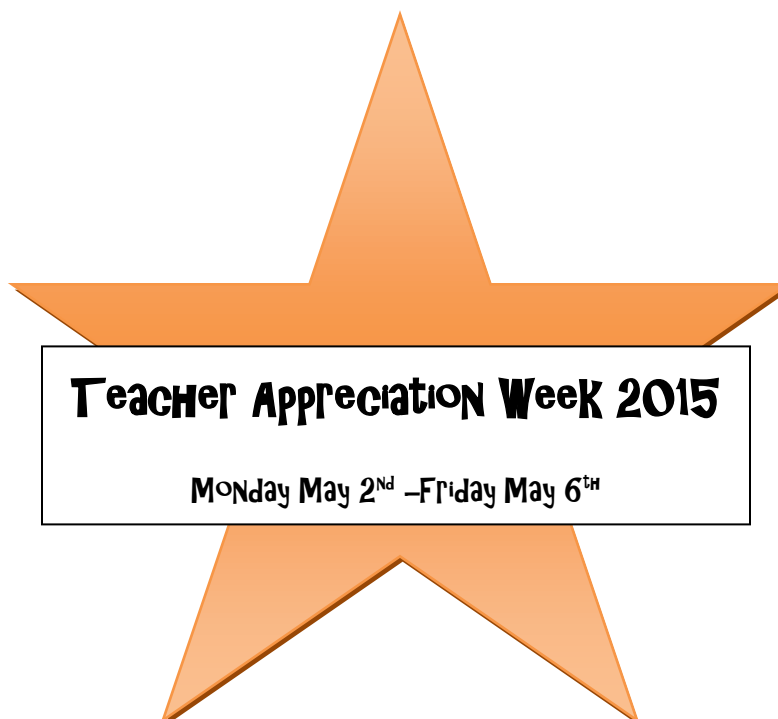
During the first week of April, we'll be learning about Birds. There will be feathers in our art, in our playdough, and even at music time! We'll read and pretend about baby birds hatching in their nests. Outside, we'll observe some real birds' behavior.

Spring Break falls on the second week of April this year. When we return to school on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, our theme will be Pond Animals. We'll play with pond animal toys, and hop, quack, and count up and down as we sing "Five Little Ducks" and "Five Green and Speckled Frogs."

In the final week of April, our theme will be Picnics. There will be lots of opportunities for pretend play as we pack and unpack our picnic baskets, and share and serve picnic food. If the weather cooperates, we will try having our own picnic, too!

I look forward to sharing news of our class activities and your children's preschool successes with you at parent-teacher conferences on April 24<sup>th</sup> (CDO) and 25<sup>th</sup> (Twos)!

Ms. Auten



Yea!!! It's finally getting nice outside and everyone's in a good mood! We've got lots of outdoorsy things to do this month, as well as fun things for indoors, too.

Our first theme is Magnets. They push. They pull. They stick to some things, but not others. We'll experiment and try to figure it out.

After the Spring break, we'll investigate Bug life. We'll see some familiar bugs in our "Bug in a Rug" game, learn about the butterfly life cycle and maybe do some insect hunting on the playground.

Spring means getting out in the Garden. We will investigate plant life cycles and beans will be sprouting on the window sills in pots we make from newspaper. We will pretend to be seeds down in the dirt and "wake up" when we feel the sun and rain.

Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> are the dates for our second set of parent/teacher conferences. We can compare our notes from the last conferences and see what lies ahead.

Take a deep breath of fresh air and enjoy the spring weather!!

Miss Susan



Finally...it's SPRING!!! Threat of snow...gone!  
Cold...gone! Dark, dismal mornings...gone!  
Hooray! The birds are chirping, the grass is growing, the warm breezes are blowing...and our children are outside playing! PNS is happy to welcome the month of April!

The first week of this glorious month (4/3-4/6) finds us talking about Fairy Tales. I am sure that princesses, princes, castles, and dragons will all be making appearances during this week. There will be discussions of the elements that make up a fairy tale. Our imaginations will be in overdrive! That is when we will write our own fairy tales during small group time...and illustrate them too! A truly magical week!!!

Spring Break week is from April 10<sup>th</sup>-April 17<sup>th</sup>! Happy vacation, everyone! And when we return on April 18<sup>th</sup>, we will return to explore the world of Underground Creatures. Hum...who is crawling around under our feet? We will talk about anything from worms to moles to bugs...and we will spend time in the dirt. ☺ Sounds like a week for wearing old clothes to school, doesn't it?

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll begin our unit on pond life. What IS a pond anyway? Who or what lives there? The kids will begin to familiarize themselves with some of the little creatures that live in, and around, ponds. The life cycle of a frog will be discussed and acted out. Hopefully there will be a field trip to visit Hidden Pond Nature Center during this week also. Stay tuned...

Spring conferences for the 3/4s will take place on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Miss Kelly and the co-oping parents will be holding down the fort during the conferences, so there will be a minimum of disruption for the children.

Letters for the Monday gang will be G (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Q & his best friend, U (24<sup>th</sup>). We've almost made it through the whole alphabet!

Happy April!!! Here's to warm weather and smiling faces!!!

Jane Millward



It's time to get outside and think Spring! This month we'll return to the Great Outdoors as we explore a variety of nature topics. We'll be talking about some of the different ways to classify the animals we encounter in our various habitats- mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, plus some insects for fun! We'll put on our observation hats and make many notes in our journals like scientists. Now, if only the weather will cooperate.

The first week of April is a time for **Birds**. Continuing our studies of animal characteristics, we will figure out the ways that birds are both similar to and different from the worms, reptiles and mammals that lived underground. Art projects will include bird feeders and feather collages. Hopefully the bird feeders will attract some feathered friends we can observe from our classroom window. In one of my favorite science activities of the year, we will discover connections between the shapes of birds' beaks and how/what different birds eat. We are going to do a taste test of a variety of foods when we "eat" like a bird. Hopefully, we'll get the opportunity to get outside and make some bird observations and record them in our journals. The Letter of the Week will be O.

The third week of April, after returning from Spring Break, we'll explore **Insects and Life Cycles in the Garden**. Moving above ground and below the sky, we will be learning about some new animal characteristics, those of insects. What makes an animal an insect and how are they different from the birds, reptiles and mammals we've studied so far. We'll be comparing life cycles both of the seeds we planted during our Under the Ground week and some insects, namely butterflies and ladybugs. Life cycles are a great way to practice our sequencing skills. We'll add some spring art projects to our class bulletin board and we will also

begin working on some Mother's Day surprises. The Letter of the Week will be I.

The last week of April we'll spend our time discovering the ecosystems of the **Pond**. We'll use a Venn diagram to compare fish and frogs and we'll categorize and classify the animals that live around and in the pond. Finishing our cooperative bulletin board display for the month will keep our little artists busy, not to mention those Mother's Day surprises. Sequencing skills will be used as we discuss the life cycle of a frog and we'll compare the frog's life cycle to that of insects and plants. Look for table work to include a pond drawn by each child and a booklet made about the life of a frog. The Letters of the Week will be X and Z!

**Important dates in April:** No school the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> as we are on Spring Break. Parent Teacher Conferences on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. A Sign Up Genius will come out sometime during the first week of April for conference times. If those dates don't work for you, just let me know and we'll work out another time to meet.

I cannot believe how quickly the school year is passing! I am looking forward to some mild weather and a lot of outdoor fun with my friends at school as spring blooms!

Ms. Ryan

## ENROLLMENT

### We still have some openings for the 2017-18 school year!

Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, and tell your mommy groups how much you love Providence!

Then, send them to our website for more info and to download an application:

<http://providencenurseryschool.com>

## ENRICHMENT

We have a veterinarian and Tae Kwon Do academy visit the little ones for our enrichment programs in April.

The Veterinarian works at Merrifield Animal Clinic and will be with us on **April 5th** to talk about animal health.

The Tae Kwon Do academy will be visiting **April 19th** and will demonstrate some of their basic moves.

Maja Strollo

## SUMMER CAMP

After Memorial Day some of our teachers and aides will be leading a “summer camp” experience for our little ones. The emphasis is on fun with a different theme each week.

On Wednesdays – weather permitting – we will provide a water day with pools and sprinklers for the kids to splash in. Come join us for songs, games, arts and crafts, stories, and learning through play!

**Space is limited!** Registration will run until all classes are filled. We will notify you of class placement by March 28<sup>th</sup>. Tuition is due in full by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The total program tuition is non-refundable.

**We will have one two-week session this year running from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

There is a \$40 registration fee per family due with your registration form. Look for the registration forms on our website.

[http://providencenurseryschool.org/?page\\_id=58](http://providencenurseryschool.org/?page_id=58)

If you have any questions, see the details on the website or contact camp director Kristie McCauley at [summercamp@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:summercamp@providencenurseryschool.com)

## VCPC

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 and by e-mail to [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to everyone who has already finished their hours and an extra big thanks to those that continue to volunteer even after your hours are met—this is a huge help! There is still plenty of time to finish up your volunteer requirement for this school year. Please let us know if you are concerned about getting all your hours in or if you need an updated total. Please contact Stephanie Jensen at [vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com) if you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below or if you have questions about your volunteer time.

- Cover for lunch bunch on **Wednesday, April 5th** from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Attend the last Clean-Up Day of the year, which is **Saturday, April 15** from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you've completed your mandatory day(s), this is a great way to earn those last few volunteer hours. Please use the Sign-Up Genius to update your RSVP.
- Attend the board meeting on Monday, **April 17th** at 7:30 p.m. (one week later due to spring break).
- Help set up, clean up, or refreshments for Spring Coffee on **April 24th** at 7:30 p.m. A Sign-up genius will be forthcoming.

## FUNDRAISING

Thank you for everyone who participated in the March play date and raffle.

PNS apparel will again be available at the Spring Coffee on April 24th. Cash or checks accepted.

Questions? Comments? Please call or e-mail Liz Claeys or Carisa Pineda. Thanks for your support!

**REMINDER**

If you have not completed your maintenance day requirement please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday April 15th our last cleaning and maintenance day. If you prefer to buy-out, please contact Stephanie Jensen at [ypadmin@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:ypadmin@providencenurseryschool.com)

**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 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,  
Elizabeth Carroll  
[newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com](mailto:newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com)

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to our **PNS teachers** for another fabulous VIP Day! Our students and their Very Important People shared a fun and educational morning.

Thank you to our social committee members for providing refreshments and coordinating volunteers for tonight's meeting. Thank you to all who donated refreshments or volunteered to help with set-up and clean-up.

Thank you to our teachers for their work on spring brunches.

Thank you to Zeina Frayha, Sara Levy, Amanda Zissou, Emily Sherron, and Alexis Jenkins for covering during brunches.

Thank you to Jennifer Mack for setting up the Parent Ed talk with Dr. Hackney.

Thank you to our teachers for helping our kids create beautiful projects for the art show and the nice labels describing each class. Thank you to the Mercadante and Jensen Families who helped get our student artwork ready for the Art Show at Kings Park Library.

Thank you to Jennifer Wiskochil and the families who donated to the VCPC spring forum.

Thank you to the Zissou, Phung-Strollo, Ngo-Phan,

Sherron, McCormick, Mack, Heim, Saad, Phan, Millward, Viilu, Schroeder, Test and Levy families who helped with February's Clean- Up and Maintenance Day and as always, thank you to our Clean-Up Coordinator, Maintenance Chair, and Maintenance Committee families for leading the effort.

Thank you to the Fundraising Co-Chairs: Liz Claeys and Carisa Pineda and the Fundraising and Social Committees for helping with the successful Spring Fundraiser/Play Date.



# APRIL 2017

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						1 <b>Tuition Due</b>
2	3 <i>Tweed Day</i>	4	5 <i>National Dandelion Day</i>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>Final Cleaning &amp; Maintenance Day</b> 8:30am-11:30am
16	17 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> FCPS Holiday <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm	18 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 4s</i>	19 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3s &amp; 3/4s</i>	20 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3/4s</i>	21 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 3s &amp; 4s</i>	22
23/30	24 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences CDO</i> <b>Spring Coffee</b> 7:30pm	25 <i>Parent/Teacher Conferences 2s</i>	26	27	28 <i>Arbor Day</i>	29



Spring Break