

The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 4

December 2012



A Letter from Kelly...

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! The trees have lost their leaves and there is a real chill in the air, a sure sign that winter is on its way!

December will certainly be full of many exciting experiences for our children. Here at school, the month kicks off with our annual PNS Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 8th in the Big Room. Our fundraising and social committees have been working on this special event since before the school year started. Crafts, snacks, and pictures with Santa are all on tap for this year's shop. There will even be some opportunities for the adults to pick up some gifts! Your children will have a chance to do their own holiday shopping with the help of our PNS elves. A highlight of the holiday season for my husband and I is watching our kids experience the joy of giving when we open those gifts on Christmas Eve. It's so much fun to see their proud little faces as we discover their ideas of the "perfect gifts" for us!

This month also brings a great opportunity for the adults to get together and celebrate! Why should the kids get to have all the fun, right? The Millward family is once again very kindly hosting our annual PNS Holiday Party on Thursday, December 13th. It is a wonderful potluck affair complete with a very lively ornament exchange. Merriment is required.

While December is packed with all kinds of fun and excitement, PNS board members will certainly not be taking a break from business. It doesn't seem possible that we are already half way through the school year, but it is time to think about next year's enrollment. All currently enrolled families will be receiving an enrollment packet via email in mid-December. It is not too soon to be thinking about which class you are interested in for next year. If you aren't sure, please feel free to speak to your child's current teacher. Our teachers know more about our classes than anyone and might have some ideas for which would be the best fit for your child.

We are also thinking about next year's board of directors. This is my third year serving on the e-board and it has been a great opportunity to get to know our families, teachers, and the daily workings of our school. Each year we have to say goodbye to board members as their children move on from PNS, leaving us with several positions to fill. Please contact me or any other board member if you would like more information about joining the PNS board.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy holiday season. I'm looking forward to the New Year and many more happy memories at PNS!

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

Cleaning & Maint. Day

8:30 am - 11:30 pm
Saturday, December 1st

Holiday Shop

9am-1pm
Saturday, December 8th

PNS Board Meeting

7:30 pm
Monday, December 10th

PNS Registration Opens

Wednesday, December 12th

PNS Parent and Staff Holiday Party

7:30 pm
Thursday, December 13th

Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL

Monday, December 24th -
Tuesday, January 1st

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CDO & 2s

If you feel out of shape after eating too much Thanksgiving Dinner, just come visit Mr. B's class. We'll be getting back into top form as we start learning to hop in music with Mrs B.

We'll also work on our catching skills in the gym if it's too cold to go outside.

Some call it the perfect toy. It doesn't require batteries, you can play just about anything with it, and chances



are, you already have several at your house. What is it? A ball. Playing catch and kicking a ball build hand-eye coordination and work out the fine-motor and gross-motor skills that will help your child later as they learn to do everything from hold a pencil to ride a bike. Catching skills

vary greatly at this age. Playing catch with a large, soft, squishy ball or a partly inflated beach ball is a good idea for this age group — it's easier to grab and less scary when it hits your child. So please take time to play catch with your child in the backyard or at the park this month.

We've learning a few running games at school too- Red Light Green Light, What Time is it Mr Fox and Duck Duck Goose (with Mrs B's modified rules). Please ask your children about these games and try them at home.

We'll start the month with a fun theme- night and bedtime. We'll make and decorate pajamas and owls. The classroom will be especially cozy this week with



pillows, sleeping bags and lullabies. Wait till you see Obie's pajamas!

Run, run, as fast as you can...that's what our class will be doing when the gingerbread man visits the week of December 10th. We'll make gingerbread men to hang on our bulletin board. We'll also build our own gingerbread houses and re-enact the story of the gingerbread man.

Spin art holiday shapes, tissue paper wreaths, and holiday cards are all signs of the season that you'll see coming from the process art table during the week of December 19th as we talk about giving to others. The children will be busy making holiday surprises for their parents. These gifts won't be perfect- but they'll be made with great love and care. It's hard to keep a secret when you are 2 or 3, so the students will likely spill the beans. That's okay- it won't diminish their excitement when you open the gifts and see what they've made especially for you.



Thanks for attending our November conferences. I enjoyed talking with you all and learned a lot in the process. Hopefully this is just the beginning of a dialogue that we continue throughout the year.

I'll be missing of all my young friends over the break. I hope you all have a joyful holiday!

Mrs. B

3s

It's here!! It's here!! Global warming and the bad economy can't keep it away. The holiday season is here!! Our class is already in holiday mode, so the upcoming festivities will have us beside ourselves with excitement.

During the first week of the month you may notice a delicious aroma coming from the kitchen. Of course, that will be our Gingerbread Man cookies. We'll hear all about that yummy little guy who says, "Run, run, as fast as you can!" and check out some different versions of that favorite story.

Holiday Fun and Traditions will be the theme of the two weeks before the winter break. We'll sing about Rudolph and Frosty, talk about different ways of celebrating and the Big Room will be busy with a wrapping center. Our major accomplishment for the month will be making gifts for some special people. Shhh! It's a secret. In addition to the handmade gifts, everyone who signs up will be able to visit the Holiday Shop on December 8th and pick out gifts for the people on their lists. Some holiday elves will be on hand to help with those big decisions.

Our enrichment activity on December 12th will be Michael Fleming, the storyteller, who will entertain us with some seasonal tales.

Mark your calendars for the annual PNS holiday party for grown-ups. It's on December 13th at Jane Millward's house. Don't miss out on all the good food and camaraderie!

By then we will all be ready for the winter break and time spent with our friends and families. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and I'll see you all in the New Year.

Miss Susan



Parent Education: Setting Boundaries and Power Struggles

presented by Dr. Rene Hackney

Thursday, December 6th 9:30 - 10:30 AM in the Church Parlor

Dr. Rene Hackney is the director of [Parenting Playgroups](#), which provides workshops for both parents and children on a wide variety of topics. She is an expert in child development who trains educators, parents, and social service providers. Dr. Hackney's practical and balanced approach helps moms and dads learn about options and best practices that lead to happy, healthy children.

I know that I am looking forward to this topic and hope that many of you are too! Feel free to bring young children (and a few quiet toys to entertain them). For more information about this talk e-mail Alexandra Hume at alexandrahume@gmail.com.

Also, please remember that all co-oping parents must complete 4 hours of parent education per year. If you have more questions about your requirement please contact Jennifer Mack at jennifermack@gmail.com

3/4s

The holiday season is upon us – with all of its excitement and feelings of anticipation. I feel so lucky to spend this wonderful time of year with such a special group of four and five year olds. Their smiles and giggles make every day a great day at PNS! Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful preschool creations.

The week of December 3rd will find us talking about the seasons of the year...and how they all fit together. How is summer different from winter...and how do the leaves know to go back on the trees in the spring? There will be some very interesting discussions during circletime, I bet!



Then there will be one favorite smell wafting throughout PNS during the week of December 10th. “Run, run, as fast as you can” will often be heard as we study several different versions of the classic storybook, The Gingerbread Man. We’ll use finger puppets, the flannel board, and even

puzzle pieces to tell – and retell - the tale of that naughty cookie boy! Holiday traditions will dominate discussion time during our last week of school in 2012. We’ll also spend time talking about giving and sharing

during this special time of year. What a month!

We all enjoyed our field trip for this exciting time of year to W. T. Woodson High School for the annual Tiny Tots Concert. It always marks the beginning of the holiday season for me! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteered to be drivers on our trip. We couldn’t do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! We will also have a Wonderful Wednesday with Michael Fleming, a storyteller, on December 12th. Hooray for the holidays!

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be S(12/3), P(12/10), and a Review Day(12/17). This group is really enjoying their letter “work.” They especially look forward to listening to the “Silly Song” that accompanies each letter introduction.

Also please make sure that you have the annual PNS Holiday Party on your calendar. It will be on Thursday, 12/13...and it’s at my house! Yea! So look for your invitation and I do hope to see you there!

Happy, happy holidays and blessings to you and your families!

Jane

Inclement Weather Dismissal Policy

Providence Nursery School generally follows Fairfax County Public Schools’ policies regarding school openings and delays. If FCPS are closed due to inclement weather, PNS will be closed as well. Kelly will send an email notifying the school of any closures or delays as soon as the information becomes available. Please also listen to the local news or call the FCPS hotline at 800-839-FCPS (3277) for the latest information. Also check www.fcps.edu, where you can sign up for FCPS Keep inTouch email notification system.

PNS Schedule, in case of weather-related delays:

PNS Class Time	FCPS	FCPS	FCPS	FCPS
	1 hr. delay	2 hr. delay	1 hr. early closing	2 hr. early closing
9:30–12:30	10:30–1:30	11:30–1:30	No change	No change
Lunch Bunch 12:30–1:30	1:30–2:30	1:30–2:30	No change	No change



4s

The month of December will have us all full of excitement as the holiday season approaches. Our units of study this month are the Community Helpers, Animals in Winter and the December Holidays.

We all loved our field trip to Woodson High School to hear the Tiny Tots Concert. Some of my past students now perform in this program.

The last week of November we talked about the Changing Seasons. We charted the weather for the week. The letter for the week was "C".

The week of December 4th -7th is Community Helper Week. We will talk about the different jobs people have within the community. We will also listen for the letter "J" sounding words.

Next is Animals in Winter week from December 11th -14th. During this week, we will be talking about how the different animals prepare for the winter months.

December 18th-21st is all about December Holidays. We will capture the spirit of the season with activities about caring and sharing. Your little ones will be laughing, singing and making spirits bright!!!

Have you ever noticed that some of the best holiday traditions involve food and family? My son just emailed me and asked that I bake some Magic Cookie Bars, one of my traditional holiday favorites, and clearly one of his also.

I wish all the Providence families a wonderful holiday season, and to building your own traditions.

Judy

Winter Enrichment



PNS is excited to welcome CREATIVE KIDS back for our winter enrichment. CREATIVE KIDS is an innovative and dynamic literature based drama program. A professional actor/teacher will lead the class in exploring and dramatizing specially selected children's stories. The students then create and act out their own original stories based on these books. These stories come from all over the world and are carefully chosen for each age group. CREATIVE KIDS introduces students to acting, increases their love of books, and is loads of fun – a perfect mix for a great after-school program! CREATIVE KIDS classes will be held on Wednesdays, January 9 – February 27, 2013

from 1:45-2:30 for students enrolled in the 3's, 3/4's and 4's classes. Students do not need to be enrolled in Lunch Bunch to attend. Cost for the class is \$112. Space in this class is limited to 15. Enrollment forms will be sent out via email but will not be accepted until Wednesday, December 12th.



Giving Tree

Hello Friends,

I am very busy packing and making my plans to visit Providence Nursery School again this year. I have spent the past few months lifting weights so that my branches will be very strong to hold all the wonderful new hats, mittens, gloves, and most especially the underwear that you will be bringing to hang on me. I'm hoping to get a real work out this year! All your donations will be given to the boys and girls at the ACCA Child Development Center. Please remember that CHILDREN OF ALL AGES are in need!



See you very soon. I'll be spending my time in the Big Room, but just ask a teacher or another parent if you need some help finding me!

The Littlest Tree

Wonderful Wednesdays in December!

We hope everyone enjoyed November's scaled, furred and feathered enrichment on how animals prepare for winter. Now the time is approaching to prepare for the holidays. To help PNS get in the spirit, we will welcome Michael Fleming, storyteller (who, I'm told may bear resemblance to one popular Christmas Character)!

He will be at PNS on Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30 in the Big Room. Twos, CDO and siblings are encouraged to join us for this fantastic holiday treat.
-Aimee Emmerich

Volunteer Opportunities

We have lots of volunteer opportunities this month. Everyone should be able to complete half their required hours by the end of the month but if you have any concerns let me know and I will help you find something that works for your schedule.

- Saturday, Dec 1 - Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30-11:30 Please RSVP to Jennifer as soon as possible
- Saturday Dec 8 - Holiday Shop- see fundraising committee to volunteer for Friday night set up or Saturday during the event or clean up
- Monday, Dec 10 - attend the board meeting for one hour credit
- Wednesday, Dec 12 - We need a lunch bunch sub. This should be a parent whose child is enrolled in Wednesday lunch bunch already
- Prepare food for the staff meeting with Dr. Ciardi, hosted by PNS in early January
- Hang the "Open House" sign in front of the school
- We need one volunteer to accompany the VP of Enrollment to the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday January 10 from 10 am to noon. We also need 8 to 10 volunteers on Open House day to give tours of the school and provide childcare for PNS parents with young kids.

-Jennifer Mack

Thank You to:

- Thank you to Rick Brown for taking care of the slippery walkway and steps on the playground.
- Thank you to everyone who has been helping to keep the playground free of leaves: Sam Crowley, Stephanie Hagopian, Jorge Rosand, Thao Hoang, and Paul Erickson.
- Thank you to Dawn Ahrens for organizing our school picture days once again this year and to all those who volunteered to help Dawn with the details and to make our kids smile: Alex Erickson, Cynthia Zhao, Mara Surridge, Mary Frizat, Maliha Ahmad, Jenny Aspillaga, and Tiffany Link.
- Thank you to all PNS families who donated so much to the Providence Presbyterian's food pantry. Your generosity was tremendous and allowed many needy families in our own community to suffer a little less this Thanksgiving. Please remember the food pantry is always in need and accepts donations all year round.

REGISTRATION for the 2013-2014 School Year

Mid-December – January 4: In-house registration for all returning families. The enrollment packet will be sent electronically via PNSALL on or around December 14, 2012.

January 5-13: Registration for school alumni and Church members.

January 16 from 10am to noon: Open House (school in session)

If school is canceled or delayed due to inclement weather, the open house will be rescheduled to January 23.

January 14-31: Registration for new families.

We need one volunteer to accompany the VP of Enrollment to the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday, January 10 from 10 am to noon. We also need 8 to 10 volunteers on Open House day to give tours of the school and provide childcare for PNS parents with young kids.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Kyle Durbin: kddurbin@verizon.net

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Barnes & Noble Day in November! Thanks to the Fairfax store who hosted us, to the teachers who provided entertainment, to all of our hardworking volunteers, and to everyone who took the time to shop in store and online! This fundraiser was a huge success for PNS, and we are expecting a check for more than \$500 for the school. Among other items to be purchased with these funds, we will finally be getting a new caterpillar on the playground for the kids to climb on (one that has a head :).

As you know, the Holiday Shop is taking place on December 8th. Thank you to everyone who turned in a shopping list. We are



still in need of volunteers to help the kids “shop”. This is one of the most enjoyable volunteer opportunities of the entire year. We will need help to clean up and set up also. Michelle Danis recently sent out a sign-up for snacks and crafts.



Our own Paula Rudnicki will again be taking holiday photos either with or without Santa for a donation of \$5. I have sent an online sign-up for photo time slots. If you are interested in signing up for a photo slot and have not received the email invite, please let Liz or Alex know.

ALSO, we will have some adult shopping opportunities at the Holiday Shop, this year. We will have a representative from Silpada, who is a mother of an alum, and a current parent who sells Avon products. Both of these ladies will be in the CDO Room on the 8th - get a head start on your own Christmas shopping while your kids shop. Both Silpada and Avon are also offering online orders for PNS using the links below. PNS will be getting a generous portion of the profits on all sales!

<http://mysilpada.com/amy.schlenker>

http://elizabethccarroll.avonrepresentative.com/online_event/view.php?rep_sponsor_event_id=362061


This is the busiest time of year for PNS Fundraising, and we appreciate your patience, participation, and support. As always, let us know if you have questions.

-Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

Summer School Director

Enrollment for summer school will be taking place in just a few short weeks. We are still looking for one or two people to volunteer as directors. By serving as director, you will secure your child a space in the program and your tuition will be free (if there are two directors, tuition will be split). Please contact Kelly Volciak if you are interested. Without a director, there can be no summer school!

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Cleaning & Maint. Day 8:30-11:30 am
2	3 	4	5	6 Parent Education: Dr. Rene Hackney 9:30-10:30 am	7	8 PNS Holiday Shop 9 am - 1 pm
9	10 PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Meeting	11	12 PNS Registration Opens Wonderful Wednesday: Storyteller Michael Fleming 11:30 am	13 PNS Parent and Staff Holiday Party 7:30 pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 ◆◆◆◆	25 ◆◆◆◆	26 Holiday	27 Break	28 ◆◆◆◆	29
30	31 ◆◆◆◆	January 1 ◆◆◆◆	January 2 School Resumes!			