

PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL
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THE PROVIDENCE PAGES

A Letter from Kelly...

December is always an exciting month at Providence Nursery School as we celebrate the holidays and prepare to welcome the New Year. It is time for our preschoolers to learn about the joys of giving and receiving. At PNS, we will be offering you and your little ones a number of opportunities to experience these joys first hand.

The Littlest Tree, our annual giving tree, will make its appearance in the Big Room in early December. This is a holiday tradition at PNS in which families may choose to donate new hats, mittens, scarves, and underwear to be given to needy children in the area. The kids always enjoy decorating our tree with some much needed gifts for those less fortunate.

Another holiday tradition of giving will be found at our annual Holiday Shop on December 7th. The children are invited to buy gifts for their family members and friends from our well stocked "store." It is more than just the shopping that makes this event so special. The fundraising and social committees have set up a morning of fun for the entire family. Snacks, crafts, and even photos with Santa are all on tap this year. This is always one of my favorite PNS events. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Finally, we will be offering our parents an opportunity to experience some holiday joy at our annual holiday party on Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. Jane Millward has kindly offered to host again this year. It is sure to be a lovely evening of food, friends, and lots of laughs during our annual ornament exchange. An Evite with all of the details will be sent out soon. Mark your calendar now!

December marks the beginning of our enrollment period at PNS. All currently enrolled families will be receiving an enrollment packet via email within the next few weeks. 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 fourth 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.

It's going to be an exciting month and a fantastic end to 2013. My best wishes to all of you during this holiday season!

Kelly



Mark your Calendar

Saturday Decemeber 7th

Holiday Shop
9am-1pm

Monday December 9th

Board Meeting
7:30pm

Thursday December 12th

PNS Holiday Party
7:30pm

Saturday December 14th

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

December 3rd thru January 3rd

Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Monday January 6th

School Resumes

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com by December 20th for January's issue.



CDO & 2's

Merrily we roll along... wow, it's December already! We'll be starting off the month learning about all kinds of land transportation. We'll sing and read about cars, trains, and buses; pretend to travel; and make car and train art. There are so many vehicles on the road, cars on the train, and people on the bus, we'll have lots of things to count together. And all those wheels will give us an opportunity to practice identifying circles, too!

For the following two weeks, we'll be looking at some of our favorite parts of the winter holidays: snow, decorations, gingerbread, and gifts! We'll make some festive decorations and sing winter songs. (I've been waiting all year to play the Nutcracker Suite and sing Jingle Bells, so I plan to take full advantage

of the opportunity!) We'll put all of those practice cooking sessions to good use and try our first *real* cooking project together. Finally, we'll examine gift boxes of different sizes to learn about squares and talk about giving, sharing, and thanking.

Our Winter Break begins on December 23rd. Whether your plans include travel, festivities, or relaxing at home, I wish you happy times with your families and friends!

With warm wishes and fond thoughts,

Ms. Auten

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 1 hr. delay	FCPS 2 hr. delay	FCPS 1 hr. early closing	FCPS 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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is your favorite holiday food?

The most interesting answer this month was from Ms. Auten: *Oliebollen*... my family has stayed connected to our Dutch ancestry on my father's side with certain holiday traditions, including frying a batch of *Oliebollen*, which are like donut holes with currants and powdered sugar!

Thank you for all the responses, January's question is: **What is your favorite cold weather activity?**

We've almost come to the end of another year and we are all full of holiday spirit! Although this group of kids is really good at making their own fun, we've got some great seasonal activities planned to make this month even more exciting.

First we'll have a week with Teddy Bears. We'll have "Bring Your Bear to School Day" and collaborate on decorating a class bear. Then the smell of Gingerbread will waft through the Big Room and we'll hear about that speedy little Gingerbread Man. Also on Wednesday of that week Michael Fleming, the storyteller, will visit to entertain us with some seasonal tales. Next we will focus on Holiday Celebrations and Decorations. We'll talk about different kinds of holidays and work on some special gifts.

Here are some activities and dates to add to your calendars. On Wednesday, the 4th, we will take a field trip to Woodson High School for the Holiday Tunes for Tots program presented by the students there. It's planned with preschoolers in mind, so the kids (big and little) always have a great time. The PNS Holiday Shop will be open for business on December 7th so our young shoppers can choose gifts for everyone on their lists with the help of volunteer elves. For the grownups, Mrs. Millward will host the PNS holiday party in her home on December 12th. Be sure to mark it on your calendar and get your babysitter lined up because you won't want to miss it!

I hope everyone has a chance to slow down some during this season and enjoy special times with family and friends. Here's wishing you all Happy Holidays!

See you next year!!

Miss Susan



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

Can it be December already? There is something special about the holiday season that just puts a smile on my face...could it be the excitement that I get to share with each of your little ones? Stand by for lots of laughter, holiday songs, and tons of wonderful creations! It is a terrific time to be a preschooler!!!

December's fun will begin with a week filled with lots of listening...we're going to be discussing music! What instruments can we name...and what about the different sounds that they make? It will be a very melodic week, I'm sure. Then there will be one favorite smell wafting throughout PNS during the week of December 9th. Yep, we'll be "studying" several different versions of the classic storybook, The Gingerbread Man. Wait until you see what we can do with gingerbread...cook it, make play dough out of it, tell stories about it, and more! Our last week of school before our winter break will have us discussing holiday traditions. We'll spend time talking about giving and sharing during this special time of year. The sights and the sounds of the season will be obvious to all who visit our class. What a month it will be!

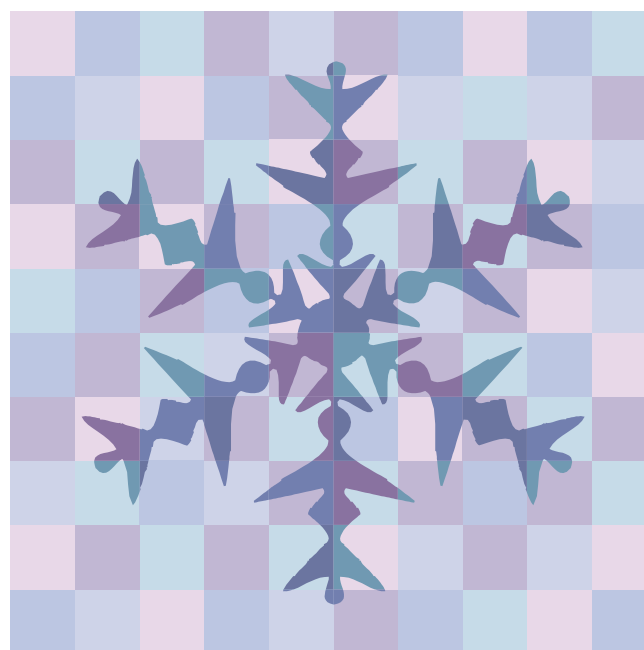
We will attend the Tiny Tots Concert at WTWoodson High School on December 4th. It is such a great musical (and FUN) experience for the class (right in the middle of our Music Week!) and I look forward to it every year! It really puts you in the holiday mood! Thanks to everyone who so willingly volunteers to be drivers on our trips. We couldn't do such exciting things without your enthusiastic help! There will be a Wonderful Wednesday on December 11th (Michael Fleming, a storyteller).

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

For the Monday gang, our letters this month will be M(12/2), R(12/9), and reviewing all the letters that we have worked on so far(12/16). This group is really enjoying their letter "work." They especially look forward to listening to the "Silly Song" that accompanies each letter introduction.

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

Jane Millward



December is here! This is a very busy month both at the Bianchetti house as well as at PNS. This month we'll be getting ready for the coming winter months as well as getting ready for the holiday season.

The week of December 3rd, we'll be **Getting Ready for Winter**. Migration and hibernation will be key topics of discussion as well as gathering food for the long cold months. We also have our Tiny Tots concert at Woodson High School on Thursday, December 5. The Letter of the Week will be M.

The week of December 10th, **Gingerbread** smells will fill the air. We'll read a variety of Gingerbread stories and compare the similarities and differences between them. We'll definitely be baking and taste testing this week! I'd really like to have the kids work together to write their own Gingerbread stories. We'll have an opportunity for some classroom volunteers this week to help us out with a Writer's Workshop as we write and illustrate our own books to add to our class library. The Letter this Week will be R, as in "Run, run as fast as you can!"

The week of December 17th will focus on the many **Holidays** celebrated in our homes. We'll be talking about family traditions and finding the similarities we all share in our families. I'll be asking you to talk to your children about a family holiday tradition in your home and help them complete a "homework" activity to share with their friends at school. We'll also be working on some surprise gifts. The Letter of the Week will be A.

Keep sending in those hats, warm coats and fuzzy mittens. We do try to go outside most days and your children are getting very independent at putting on their own coats, hats and gloves. We're remembering to ask a friend to help us zip *before* asking a grown-up and the children love to be able

to help each other out. **Please try and put a label on each article of outerwear so we can return misplaced pieces to their rightful owners.**

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy break and I will look forward to hearing all about your I-o-n-g break when you return on January 7th!

Ms. Ryan



WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- Emailing the school or class yahoo groups is the quickest and most effective method we have of distributing information. You should always pay close attention to school email and at no time is this more important than when we are experiencing inclement weather. School delays and cancellations will be announced through the pnsall yahoo group. We do follow FCPS for all closings and delays.
- Please make sure you label all hats, coats, scarves and mittens that your children bring to school. This is the only way to make it sure they make it home! It is helpful if mittens are tucked into the sleeves of jackets.

ENRICHMENT

Winter Enrichment

PNS is excited to introduce a new enrichment activity to our program this year, It's Hip Hop Time, led by Keri Drugan. Keri is an exercise and wellness coordinator with the Jewish Community Center.

In this eight-week class, she will teach your little one the basics of hip hop dance, isolations, rhythm, and attitude, while engaging them in a fun new way to exercise all while building confidence and gaining friendships. It is Hip Hop Time will be held on Wednesdays, January 15 – March 5 from 1:45 -2:15 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 \$120. Space in this class is limited to 15. Enrollment forms will be sent out via email but will not be accepted until Wednesday, December 11th.

Wonderful Wednesday

Thank you to all who contributed cards for the soldiers. Yesterday I sent off 67 cards to "A Million Thanks." I can not express how humbling it was to hear and read all the things for which our little ones are grateful. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in that activity with your little ones.

In December we have one enrichment activity planned. On December 11th, we will welcome back Michael Fleming, story-teller extraordinaire who happens to

look like Santa. He will be here at 11:30. CDO, twos, and siblings are encouraged to join the fun with parent supervision.

Gratefully,

Aimee Emmerich

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each family enrolled in a co-oping class must complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. CDO-only families are required to do two. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours.

We hope that you are able to complete half of your hours during the first half of the school year. We have a lot of volunteer opportunities this month. Hopefully each family will have completed at least half of their required volunteer hours by the end of December. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

- December 4 12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch Bunch Sub
- December 7 10am – 1pm Holiday shop See Fundraising Committee to volunteer.
- December 9 7:30pm Board Meeting
- December 14 8:30am – 11:30am Cleaning and maintenance day

Reminder: All families are required to complete 8 volunteer hours per year and should have completed 4 by the end of December. Each cooping parent is required to complete 4 parent education hours per year. Volunteer hours are not the same as parent education hours. Being up to date with responsibilities is a requirement to register for next year. Please report volunteer hours and parent education hours to Natalie Gray, VP Admin.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Gray, VP Admin. vpadmin@providencenurseryschool.com

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to the Fairfax Barnes & Noble and especially to Marta Davis (B&N Children's Department Lead and former PNS President) for hosting our book fair. Thank you to Miss Auten, Miss Susan, Miss Allison, Mrs. Millward, and Miss Ryan for entertaining us with terrific stories and music. Thank you to Irma and Michael Rugar for a terrific musical accompaniment during Ms. Auten's storytime. Thank you to Holly Powers and Maliha Ahmad for helping

with crafts and face painting. And, of course, thank you to all of the PNS families and alums who shopped to support our school! We don't have a final amount yet for the donation, but we will be getting 15% of all sales made with our voucher number.

We are still in need of more volunteers to help out at Holiday Shop. We need people to help us decorate on Friday night and to shop with the kids on Saturday. You can also volunteer to bring a snack. We have extended the hours of Holiday Shop from 9:00 till 1:00. I will be sending out a sign-up with time slots for photos. If you would like to have a family picture or a picture with Santa, please use the online sign-up. Photos will be \$5 and will be posted on Shutterfly after the event. You do not have to "shop" to have your photo taken, but families who are signed up to shop will have the first chance to get their desired photo time before I send it to PNSall.

Thank you for your support!

Liz Claeys and Alex Erickson

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the December Newsletter please submit it by November 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,
Elizabeth Carroll
newsletter@providencenurseryschool.com

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has been helping to keep the playground free of leaves: Rob Moss, Thao Hoang, Babitha Jampala, Rick Brown, Meredyth & Charles Havasy.

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: Lori Thomas, Nickie Yi, Nora Vish, Maliha Ahmad, Thao Doan, and Babitha Jampala.

Thank you to Aimee Emmerich for subbing and Jennifer Brooks for subbing during CDO and 2s conferences.

Thank you to Holly Powers for making some much needed repairs to our dress-up costumes.

Thank you to Aimee Emmerich for organizing and leading the holiday cards for service men and women enrichment activity. Thank you to Mara Surridge for arranging coverage of this activity by the Fairfax City Patch.

Thank you to all who donated food and helped with set-up and clean-up for the VCPC fall forum: Whitney Brown, Rosalie Hallmark Kristen Browning, Alex Hume, Rosalie Hallmark, Britt Estabrooks, Anja Wright, Allison Hagner, Cynthia Zhao, Dawn Ahrens, and Amy Brown.

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.

Most importantly, thank you to ALL of our PNS parents. It is the hard work and dedication of our parents that make our school so special!

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1 Tuition Due	2	3	4 <i>Wear Brown Shoes Day</i>	5	6	7 Holiday Shop 9am-1pm
8	9 Board Meeting 7:30pm	10	11	12 PNS Holiday Party 7:30pm	13	14 Cleaning & Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
15	16	17 <i>National Maple Syrup Day</i>	18	19	20	21
22	23 Start of Winter Break NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL <i>National Chocolate Day</i>	25 NO SCHOOL <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL
29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL <i>New Year's Eve</i>		<i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i>		<i>School resumes Monday January 6th</i>