

The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 5

January 2013

A Letter from Kelly...

Welcome back and welcome to a New Year! I hope you all had a nice break. The Volciak family had a nice, relaxing Christmas at home before ringing in the New Year with our families in Northeast Pennsylvania. Now we are back and ready to tackle another year. In keeping with tradition here at PNS, we're off and running with a very busy January schedule.



The school year kicks off with registration for the 2013-2014 school year. Priority registration for currently enrolled families is in full swing. Please remember to get your in-house registration forms back to Kyle Durbin by January 4th. Although we do try to accommodate everyone's first choice of class selection, it is sometimes necessary to hold lotteries and form waitlists, even for our in-house families. Please be patient as we complete this process. We will let you know how the rosters are shaping up as soon as possible.

Our open house for NEW families interested in our school will take place on Wednesday, January 16th while school is in session. Please encourage your neighbors and friends who are looking for a preschool to attend. And please also consider volunteering your time to give tours and answer questions. It is a busy morning with a lot of activity and we can use all the help we can get! Contact Kyle Durbin or Jennifer Mack if you are available and willing to help.

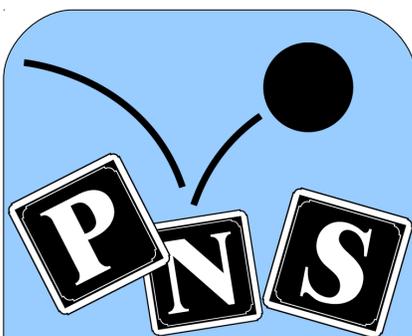
We are currently forming a nominating committee to look for volunteers to be on the Executive Board (E-board) for the 2013 – 2014 school year. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee to help form next year's E-board please contact me. If you are interested in any position, contact any current board member or someone on the committee for more information (I will send an email to announce the committee once it is formed). The E-Board is a great way to get more involved in the school, meet new parents, and take part in important school decisions. I volunteered to be on the E-board to be more involved with my children's preschool and in turn I ended up with some very valuable experience I can add to my resume, not to mention some friendships I know will last long after my years at PNS.

I'm happy to announce that Kristen Konisky and Anja Wright will be serving as our Co-Directors of summer camp this year. I know it's only January, and no one is thinking about summer just yet, but flyers will be coming out next month! Perhaps looking forward to another exciting session of summer camp with an amazing group of teachers and friends will help us get through the next few cold, winter months.

We do have a few school closings this month: January 21st for Martin Luther King, Jr. day, and January 28th & 29th for FCPS holidays.

I hope this year will be an exciting and rewarding one for all of us. Happy 2013!

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

9019 Little River Turnpike
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Mark your Calendar

School Resumes

Wednesday, January 2nd

In-House Enrollment Forms and Fees Due

Friday, January 4th 1:30 pm

Parent Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, January 8th - 4s

Wednesday, January 9th &
Friday, January 11th-3s

Wednesday, January 9th &
Thursday, January 10th-3/4s

PNS Board Meeting

7:30 pm
Monday, January 14th

PNS Open House

10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 16th

Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 21st

Fairfax County Public School Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Monday & Tuesday, January
28th & 29th

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CDO & 2s

HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome back to school! I hope your winter break was filled with special moments and memories of your children that you have tucked away. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I'm ready for the calm of the winter months. Of course, here at PNS, the pace never slows, so we'll jump right into the New Year.

During the first two weeks in January, we'll be talking about winter and dressing for the weather. We'll transform circle time into a winter wonderland. Mrs B loves winter and snow (I lived in Boston for 7 years). Lots of great songs and books accompany this theme. We'll read Jan Brett's The Hat and The Jacket I wear in the Snow by Shirly Neitzel. Ice cube painting, and mitten fold-overs will be some of our art activities. Of course we'll also plough shaving cream covered roads and paint snow scenes with Epsom salts. So LET IT SNOW!

AND THEN...on Jan 14th dinosaurs will be roaming around PNS. This is usually a very popular theme. We'll follow some



dino prints to a nest with eggs. I wonder what might hatch... We'll make prehistoric headbands and dinosaur prints. Be prepared to hear lots of dino-sized roars!

We'll study nursery rhymes and books for two weeks beginning January 21st. We'll make "Twinkle Twinkle" Little Star wands and "Itsy,Bitsy Spider" webs. Mary's lamb is visiting us this week too. The children will have an opportunity to bring in their favorite books to share at circle time. We'll even write our own class book with Obie's help.

You've heard it before, but it bears repeating: Reading aloud is one of the most important things you can do for your child. Daily read-aloud sessions stimulate brain development and help foster a lifelong love of reading and learning. I also recommend taking [regular trips to the library](#). It's an inexpensive way to add new books to your rotation. The library's special displays are a great place to find books that complement the season or a particular theme.

Mrs. B

3s

The dust and all that glitter have finally settled and I hope everyone had a fulfilling and relaxing holiday because now it's time for the crazy month of January!

During our first week back, we'll engage in some Wintery Fun. I hope the weather cooperates, but even if it doesn't we will have ice and "snow" inside. Then we will investigate some Winter Animals. We'll practice our penguin walk and put white "fur" on some polar bears. During the next week DINOSAURS will rule the school. Our car mountain will become Dinosaur Mountain. Rock painting, egg rolling and dino sponge prints will keep us busy at the art table. Then we will put on our hard hats and spend some time talking about buildings and seeing what we can construct.



On Wednesday, the 16th, we will show off our school to next year's crop of preschoolers and their families during Open House. We'll try not to let the dinosaurs stomp on anyone!

Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on the 9th and 11th. We will have fifteen uninterrupted minutes to talk about your child's accomplishments and goals at school. I will put a sign-up sheet near the daily sign-in clipboard so you can pick a convenient time to come in. If you can't make either day, we will arrange another time.

Welcome back to school everyone and Happy New Year!!

Miss Susan

3/4s

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope all the three/fours and their families had a memorable, restful break and that everyone's special wishes came true! Now winter has settled in around us, and it's time to get back to school. My planbook is full of ideas to help us beat the winter blues. During the first week of January, we will have lots of winter excitement as each child discovers what makes winter so unique...and FUN! We'll have the opportunity to create some pretty cool "snowy" art. (I hope you like glitter!) We'll also concentrate on learning the difference between mittens and gloves! Then we're off to talk about polar animals. Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. And our table work will be very wild and exciting!! Finally, during the last two weeks of the month, dinosaurs will roam PNS.

Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! We will don our paleontologist hats starting on the 22nd as we discover and learn about dinosaurs and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs and gravel in our sensory table to painting our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high. We will close out the month talking about nocturnal animals...a perfect topic as nights appear to grow longer and longer.

There are several dates that need to be written in your new 2013 calendars. Conferences will take place on Wednesday, January 9th and Thursday, January 10th. This will be a time when I will meet with each of you for about 15 minutes to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, I will have a sign-up sheet on our table for you to make your choice of conference time. Remember that there is no school on the 21st (MLK Day), the 28th, and 29th...all FCPS holidays. We WILL be in school on Wednesday, January 16th. The PNS Open House will be going on around us, but we will have a regular school day.

When you coop this month, you will notice several classroom management changes. The sign-in board shapes have now been retired...only the children's names remain. Everyone already recognizes their own name, and now they will start recognizing their

classmates' names also! I will also be phasing in more free choice during small-motor time first thing in the morning. The kids will be able to choose the toy that they want to play with (right from the cabinet!) instead of me making the choice for them. They will take the toy to the table or floor to play...and then return it to the cabinet by themselves before making another choice. It



is one more way for this group to become more independent. Calendar time is a favorite time of day...the kids are really getting into counting and figuring out the monthly pattern. Patterning is such an important pre-math skill. So when your child is looking for something to do one day, give them a handful of buttons, or coins, or whatever is handy...and ask them to make a pattern. We make it fun at school...bet you can, too!

Speaking of independence, I hope you are noticing how good these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. I am so proud of each of them! Children can get frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/or herself when leaving home. (Prints and solids look lovely together, don't they? I heard that is this season's fashion statement!) Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!!! Zippering is also a skill that is within reach of this age group...so we'll be encouraging it, too!

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with Letters I(1/7) and D(1/14). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are starting to emerge! And they are having lots of FUN doing it!

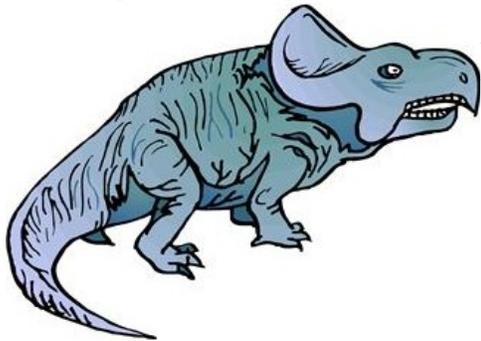
WOW...what a month! As usual, if anyone has any concerns or questions concerning your child, please don't hesitate to call me at home. You know how I love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is! Stay tuned...

Jane

4s

O.K. you all must know by now how much I enjoy the heat and sun – so getting your children and myself excited about January’s winter activities becomes a real challenge. The thoughts of beautiful snowflakes, snowmen and sipping hot chocolate can warm the heart and soul even in the cruelest throws of winter. If we actually do get some of that wet, fluffy, white stuff it really will be fun to watch my little ones play outdoors. If that doesn’t happen, we will still feel oh so cold – playing with ice cubes. Come on! I’m really trying here! Frosty the Snowman and snow-people craft activities will keep everyone’s hat from blowing away in the wind as we explore our unit of study Wintery Fun.

Next, we will have a mid-year review. We will be practicing number and letter recognition, following directions and using our listening skills. I will be holding conferences on January 8th.



We will close the month of January with the much loved unit on Dinosaurs. We will become Big and Brawny and Roar really loud into “The Land before Time Began”.

I wish everyone in the Providence family a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Judy

Speech Screenings

Each year PNS provides parents the opportunity to have their child's speech and language development assessed by professional speech language pathologists. This year we are also providing the option of having your child assessed for sensory-motor or visual-motor issues by an occupational therapist. These screenings can confirm that your child should be referred for further diagnostic testing and possible assistance, or that he or she is within average development ranges for his or her age. Please consider having your child screened if you do have concerns about his or her speech and language development or his or her motor development.



Screenings for children in the 2's, 3/4's, and 4's classes will take place Thursday, February 7th, 2013 during the regular school day. Screenings for CDO and 3's will take place Friday, February 8th, 2013 during the regular school day. The speech screening session fee is \$15 per child and the sensory-motor and visual-motor screening is \$15 if performed with a speech screening, or \$20 if requested by itself. These fees are to be paid by the family.

Please contact Alex Hume at alexandrahume@gmail.com for more information.

Interested In An Executive Board Position?

The nominating committee will soon begin to find interested parents to serve on next year's Executive Board (E-board). The Executive Board consists of the following positions: President or Co-Presidents, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Membership - Enrollment, Vice President of Membership - Forms, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Fundraising Chair or Co-Chairs. E-board members must attend the monthly board meeting and are very involved in the administration of the school. Because these jobs take more time, parents who serve on the executive board are not required to complete 8 volunteer hours; the materials fee for the oldest child is also waived (if a position is shared, the materials fee is also shared). The new executive board takes over at the April board meeting. If you are interested in learning more about a specific position, please feel free to contact the current board member to ask questions. You can also see a summary of each executive board job description in the family jobs section of our website – www.providencenurseryschool.com.



Reminder

The second half of your materials fee is due with January tuition - see the tuition payment schedule or tuition invoice (available on our website) for amounts.



Summer Camp

PNS offers an optional summer camp program during the month of June. Session 1 will run from May 28 – June 7. Session 2 will run from June 10 – June 21. 3 year olds attend Tuesday – Thursday, and 4 & 5 year olds attend Monday through Friday. The hours are 9:30 – 12:30 with NO lunch bunch option. Stay tuned to your email for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Everyone should have half their hours completed at this point in the year. This spreads out the volunteer work and minimizes a last minute scramble for parents needing hours. I have communicated with families that are short on hours but if you have any questions at all please contact me at jennifergmack@gmail.com.

We will need volunteers to bring lunch items for the Dr. Ciardi luncheon on Wed Jan 9. We will need 3 lunch bunch volunteers for Wed Jan 9 so the staff may attend the luncheon.

Parents may attend board meeting on Mon, January 14 for one volunteer hour.

We will need volunteers to give tours and help with other duties at Open House on Wed Jan 16. Please see Kyle Durbin if you would like to help.

2013-2014 Registration and More Volunteer Opportunities

Don't forget to turn in your application form and registration fee by 1:30pm on Friday January 4 for all returning families.

We still need volunteers:

- for the Burke Preschool Fair on Thursday January 12 from 10 am to noon
- for the Open House on Wednesday January 16 from 10 am to noon

If you have any questions or want to help, contact Kyle Durbin, kddurbing@verizon.net

Nominating Committee for 2013/2014 E-Board Positions

We're looking for two volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for the selection of the 2013 – 2014 PNS Board of Directors. During January and February, you will speak with interested individuals either in person, by phone or via e-mail. Nominees will be announced at our February board meeting and approved at our March general membership meeting. If you are interested, please let us know before the January board meeting. Thank You!

Kelly Volciak, PNS Board President



and Silpada rep Amy Schlenker Thank you to our social committee: Michelle Danis and Mandi Felici for coordinating the refreshments, decorating, and organizing crafts. A special thank you to Paula Rudnicka for the incredible work she did on the photography and to Brad Fitch for being Santa again this year.

- Thank you to Leah Fogarty for organizing this year's PNS holiday party and to the Millward family for hosting the event in their home.
- Thanks to Kyle Durbin for arranging the Littlest Tree project and food drive and thanks to all who donated.

Baby News!

Congratulations to Allison and Chris Hagner on the birth of their son, Daniel Joseph Hagner on December 10th. Daniel joins big sister Maggie (3/4s), sister Grace (2s) and brother Jack (a PNS alumni).

So Many to Thank!

- Thank you to our Fundraising Committee: Liz Claeys, Alex Erickson, Paula and Mark Rudnicka, and Carisa and Marbin Pineda for all of the hard work they put in to the Holiday Shop and thanks to everyone else who helped with everything from decorating, donating food, helping kids shop, and cleaning up: Jeb Mann, Kristen Konisky, Jenn Truong, Thao Doan, Mara Surrige, Mary Frizat, Leah Fogarty, Prassu Mehta, Alex Hume, Laura Braceland, Jennifer Mack, Kelley Raich, Maliha Ahmad, Tina Fu, Barbara Moro, Simonette delaTorre, Aimee Emmerich, Janice Han, Jenny Aspillaga, Jessie Auten, Mrs. B and five awesome Girl Scouts! Thank you to our AVON rep Elizabeth Carroll,
- Thank you to the Class Reps: Tiffany Link, Natalie Gray, Lauren Etzler, Susanne Fitch, and Jennifer Brooks for organizing the class holiday gifts for the teachers and aides and also for working on the spring co-op schedules.
- Thank you to Sherry Steeley, Jane Millward, Tiffany Link, and Kyle Durbin for serving on the tuition committee.
- Thank you to Kristen Konisky and Anja Wright for volunteering to serve as Summer School Co-Directors.
- Thank you to the maintenance committee and all the volunteers who helped during our last clean-up day: Maliha Ahmad, Simonette delaTorre, Jason Fogarty, Alexandra Hume, Jorge Rosand, David Konisky, Cynthia Zhao, Jenni Buechler, and Sylvain Lacroix.
- And a special thank you to our aides: Kris Lahiff, Phyllis Bruyette, Fatema Kanchan, Ryan Bianchetti, and Emmy Cade who all jumped in to help out in whichever classes they were needed during the busy first half of the school year.

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 School Resumes	3	4 In-House Enrollment Forms and Fees Due 1:30 pm	5
6	7	8 Parent Teacher Conferences- 4s Class	9 Parent Teacher Conferences- 3s & 3/4s Class	10 Parent Teacher Conferences- 3/4s Class	11 Parent Teacher Conferences- 3s Class	12
13	14 PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Meeting	15	16 PNS Open House 10-12 noon (school in session)	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28 Fairfax County Holiday NO	29 Public Schools SCHOOL	30	31		