

The Providence Pages

Volume 44, Issue 3

November 2012

A Letter from Kelly...

As promised, October was a fun and busy month. We were lucky to witness changing leaves, lots of sunshine, and perfectly pleasant temperatures. Many of our kids were able to enjoy some exciting trips to the pumpkin patches, and our school was visited by our favorite storybook characters, animals, princesses, and superheroes. It was so much fun to see everyone's costume of choice during the Halloween parades!

November is another month full of activity at PNS. We are well on our way to reaching our school fundraising goal for the year, but one of our most successful events is yet to come. Our big Fall Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble will be held at the Fairfax location on Saturday, November 17th. This is a great opportunity to support PNS while getting a head start on your holiday shopping! It's also a perfect time to earn a few volunteer hours while your family shops and enjoys the events and activities. We plan on having PNS represented all day helping with crafts, gift wrapping, face painting, and much more. Please consider giving some of your time to help raise money for our wonderful preschool. Stay tuned for a schedule of the day's activities and more details from our fundraising team!

Please also mark your calendar for these other important dates in November. School is closed on November 5th and 6th due to FCPS teacher work days. Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 7:30 pm in the Big Room at School. Most importantly, Thanksgiving falls on November 22nd this year so the school will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and on Friday, November 23rd.

The beginning of the holiday season seems like a good time to talk about food and sharing. I want to remind everyone that our snack policy states that a parent must notify the teacher and other parents in the class, via the class yahoo group, at least *48 hours* in advance of bringing food to school. I know this may seem strict, but parents of kids with allergies or other dietary restrictions will appreciate the notice and have time to plan so the entire class can enjoy a treat.

Finally, as we enter the season of Thanksgiving, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all PNS families. Each of you adds something unique to your child's classroom experience and to our school overall. The energy, time, hard work, and enthusiasm PNS parents give to the school is amazing. I am grateful to be sharing my children's preschool years with all of you.

Warm wishes for a wonderful and loving Thanksgiving celebration!

-Kelly



PROVIDENCE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mark your Calendar

School Pictures

Thursday, November 1st
2s & 3/4s

Friday, November 2nd
3s, 4s, CDO

Fairfax County Public

Schools Holiday –

NO SCHOOL

Monday, November 5th &
Tuesday, November 6th

Parent Teacher

Conferences

Monday, November 12th CDO
Tuesday, November 13th 2s

Fall Fundraiser at

Barnes & Noble

Saturday, November 17th

Thanksgiving Luncheon

for 3/4s and 4s

Tuesday, November 20th

Thanksgiving Holiday –

NO SCHOOL

Thursday, November 22nd &
Friday, November 23rd

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**CDO
& 2s**

Approaching the holidays, I've been listing all the things I'm thankful for this year. At the top of the list is being able to spend my mornings playing, reading, singing and talking with your children!

Thank you for the emails and morning messages you relay with the latest on how your child slept or what they are excited about at the moment. The more I know about what's happening at home, the better I can connect with your child at school. You can't tell me too much! I'm trying to tell you all I can about what goes on at school as well. But if I miss something or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



We'll begin the month with our two week body part theme. Our classroom will be transformed into a doctor's office as we care for some sick baby dolls. We'll be singing Mrs. B's favorite- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. We'll also dance to a body parts song with bean bags. We'll make our own body books too.



The week of November 19th we'll learn about food and feasting . The big room will become a grocery store. We'll wash dishes in Mrs. B's sensory table. Children tend to be picky eaters at this age. But we'll encourage everyone to try new foods.

Speaking of food, did you know your family's eating habits can have a profound effect on your child's academic success? Students who eat dinner with their families often are more likely to do well in school



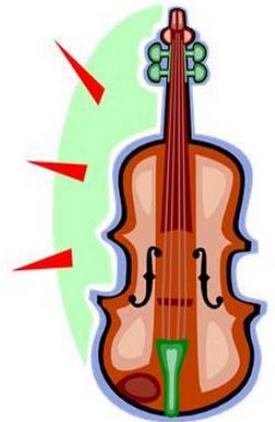
(40% more likely to earn As and Bs in school) Use this time to talk and connect, and build family unity. Invite conversation. Ask open- ended questions and really listen to one another.

Encourage your child to invite their friends to join in family meals. It is the simple act of being together that tends to increase a sense of security with children, not the elaborate makings of the meal.



Our room will be Rocking the week of November 26th as we talk about music and instruments. My daughter will visit us and play her Viola. We'd love to have some parent volunteers in to share their musical talents too.....We'll make drums, guitars and shakers at the art table this week. Obie will share his favorite song with the children. Can you guess what it is?

Mark your calendars! On Nov 12th in CDO and Nov 13th in the twos class we have parent teacher conferences. I'm looking forward to talking with you!



Mrs. B

3s

The holiday season is here! It seems like it starts with Halloween and continues nonstop right through New Year's Day. Everybody's getting excited about travel plans and visits, feasting and football. It's hard to tell if we're shivering from excitement or just the colder weather.

We'll do our best to stay focused on our plans for the month. Our first theme is Autumn. We will talk about what has been happening outside to the plants and animals and the weather and we'll have a Wednesday enrichment visit from the Wildlife Center on the 14th. Hopefully, there will be enough leaves left outside to do some leaf pile jumping on the playground. Body Parts are the next things we will focus on. We'll think of lots of active ways to use our arms, legs, hands, feet and heads. The Hokey-Pokey and finger paint come to mind. After all that activity, we'll be hungry and ready for the next theme: Food. The Big Room will sprout a food market and we can "play with our food" at the art table. Then we will celebrate a holiday which sometimes makes us think of food - Thanksgiving! We'll also try to think of things we are thankful for. This can start some very interesting conversations!!

I'm pleased to say that everyone caught right on to the job system and it's apparently very exciting to check in each morning and discover whether you have a job or a day off.



A few reminders:

November 2nd is Picture Day, so pick out the perfect outfit, schedule those haircuts and send them in ready to smile! We won't have any messy projects that day, so the nice clothes will be relatively safe.

The fabulous Barnes and Noble Fundraiser is on November 17th. It's a great way to support our school, maybe get some volunteer hours and just have lots of fun. The holidays are just around the corner and books make great gifts for everyone.

Please check the spare clothes basket in the classroom to make sure that there are seasonally appropriate clothes in there and that any items that have been used lately have been replaced. Also, on those really cold days, remember to send hats and mittens for our playground time.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I can definitely say that I am thankful to be spending time with such a great bunch of kids and with such dedicated and helpful parents. You all make it fun to come to school!

Miss Susan

Winter Weather Reminders

- With cooler weather upon us, don't forget to update your child's emergency clothes.
- E-mailing 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 e-mail 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 sure they make it home! It is helpful if mittens are tucked into the sleeves of jackets.



3/4s

November is traditionally a month to give thanks. At Providence, we have so much to be thankful for...terrific children, caring parents, a fabulous facility, and a whole month to celebrate our blessings! This month is filled with learning about food, the first Thanksgiving, and the importance of sharing with others. Our weeks will be crammed full of fun as we talk about food (11/7), Thanksgiving (11/12), our Thanksgiving Feast(11/19), and Music (11/26). My Monday group will be looking at the letters T, A, and L during the month.



Our traditional Providence Thanksgiving feast will take place on Tuesday, November 20th and we will be celebrating with the Fours' class. We will all be doing some of the food preparation and cooking in addition to the feasting. Although space does not allow us to invite parents to eat with us, a few extra hands to help with final details would be greatly appreciated. I will be posting a sign-up sheet later in the month listing some foods that will be needed...if anyone can help, that would be terrific! Lunch Bunch will be Fun Bunch that day...no lunch will be necessary!

Important dates for November: No school on the 5th and 6th (Fairfax Co. Public School holidays) and November 22nd (Thanksgiving). Our field trip for this month will

take place mid-month when we go "behind the scenes" for a special tour of the neighborhood Safeway store during food week. (It is definitely one of my favorite field trips for this age group!) Details will follow soon.

We will also be attending the Tiny Tots concert at W.T.Woodson High School on Wednesday, November 28th. Mary will be sending out the details on this musical trip also. (Siblings are welcome to come along and enjoy the festivities on this trip.) Mark your calendar so that you can come along.

Please remember to change seasons with the clothes in my "emergency basket"...and to label all those hats and mittens. Star of the Day is a great success – I think being line leader is the favorite part of the job. Show 'n Tell is also going well. I really appreciate your effort when you encourage your Star to bring something that relates to the topic of the week (and that fits into the "sharing can, too!").

I am having a great time with your kids! They have all become good friends with each other...and I love listening to their conversations! Lastly, I hope you are enjoying your co-op days as much as I enjoy having you with me! Happy Turkey Day to all!

Jane

4s

November and Thanksgiving- I love it! From the smells of the turkey cooking in the oven to the football games on every TV in the house to the refrigerator door opening and closing constantly to the dirty dishes building a huge pile in the kitchen sink. Hurray!

I hope all our Providence families are also excited about the holidays and have the opportunity this holiday to spend it in your own special way.

The month of November starts with our unit on Autumn, November 6th-9th. We will paint on a leaf shape and explore the beautiful colors of Autumn.

During the middle of the month, November 13th-21st, we will learn about the First Thanksgiving.

On Tuesday, November 20th, we will do our cooking and crafting with a lunch feast at about 12 noon. You do not need to send a snack on this day. I will be posting a sign up sheet for some of the food items that we will need for the feast. Space is limited so this is just a child's activity.

A new Show and Tell schedule will be coming. The children are having a great time with this activity. Please help them to choose just one item for sharing that embraces the weekly theme.

Wishing you all a Wonderful Holiday Season!!!!



Judy

Class Photo Sites

We are pleased to see so many of you are utilizing our class photo sites on Shutterfly. The pictures you've been sharing offer so many wonderful glimpses of day-to-day activities at PNS. Keep uploading those pictures! In



May we will order class photo books using those pictures. If you are interested in helping to create those photo books please see your Class Representative. One quick reminder about our Shutterfly pages. These sites are only to

be used by PNS parents. They cannot be shared with members of your extended families or friends. For the safety and privacy of our students we ask that you not give out any information about our class pages.

Wonderful Wednesdays Enrichment!

I hope everyone has had a terrific, enriching fall. As November rolls around, the excitement of the holidays and anticipation of the first snow keep us bustling to enjoy, and ultimately, survive the season.

Please join us Wednesday, November 14th at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as we welcome back the Wildlife Center of Virginia. They will be doing a presentation on how animals survive the season entitled "Wild Winter Worlds."

Twos, CDO and siblings are welcome with supervision.

-Aimee Emmerich

Parent Education

Kindergarten Options Panel

Tuesday, November 13th

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Fellowship Hall (upstairs in the Church)

Not all students learn the same way and the Montessori style, the Waldorf philosophy, or homeschooling might be the best choice for your family. Representatives from

the Montessori School of Northern Virginia, the Potomac Crescent School, and Jennifer Buechler, a PNS Parent, who homeschools three of her children, will talk about their programs and their educational philosophies.

These panelists are great resources for thinking about and recognizing different ways kids learn, both in the classroom and outside of it, even if you are looking at another option for your child for kindergarten. Come with your questions; kindergarten is a big transition, so I know we all have a few. :)

For more information about this talk e-mail Alexandra Hume at alexandrahume@gmail.com.

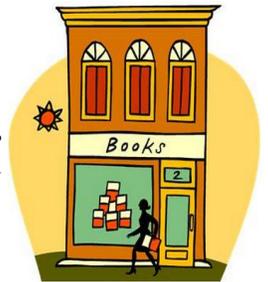
Fundraising

PNS Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Saturday, November 17th

Fair Lakes Promenade Barnes and Noble

10:30AM - 6:30PM



This is our biggest fundraiser of the fall. Your children will enjoy crafts, music, facepainting, storytimes, and much more! This event is a fun opportunity to earn some volunteer hours on a Saturday. We need help with gift wrapping, crafts and face painting. Please contact Liz Claeys or Alex Erickson if you can help out. We hope to see you there!

And don't forget Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 8th! If you have not yet turned in a shopping list for your child, please do so ASAP so we have enough gifts. We will also need lots of volunteers for this event - "elves" to shop with the kids, helpers for crafts, people to bring snacks, a volunteer Santa or two. We need help to set-up and decorate on Friday night (the 7th) and there are lots of gift labels that need to be filled out ahead of time (this is a job that anyone can do from home during the next month.)

PNS Fundraising Committee

Food Drive

Our holiday food drive is in full swing. We kicked it off early this year to beat the holiday rush. Thanks to all for the tremendous response. We have already delivered two full boxes of food. All donations are to support Providence Presbyterian's food pantry which supplies food goods to members of our community regardless of religious affiliation. The collection boxes are in both the main and back hallways where families can leave donations of canned and boxed goods.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Matthew and Bridget Benov on the birth of their son, Brooks Alistair, on September 28th. Brooks has a big sister, Vivienne, in the 2s class!



Volunteer Opportunities

We hope that you are able to complete half of your hours during the first half of the school year. Here are some ideas to help you get those hours in before winter break!

- Monday, November 12th – Subs needed in the CDO class during parent/teacher conferences.
- Wednesday, Nov 14th - Lunch Bunch sub needed from 12:30 – 1:30.
- November 17th – Volunteers needed to help with Barnes and Noble Day.
- December 7th & 8th – Volunteers needed to help with Holiday Shop.
- Check in with Sam Crowley and Stephanie Hagopian, our maintenance chairs. There are plenty of projects that need to be done aside from our scheduled clean-up and maintenance days. They will especially need help with raking the leaves off the playground over the next few weeks.
- Take the art smocks home to be cleaned – this should be done monthly.
- Help out with taking care of the school pets over the holiday break.
- Attend a board meeting – these are held the second Monday of each month in the Big Room.

Reminder: Please report your volunteer hours and parent education hours to Jennifer Mack, VP-Admin. If you don't report them, she won't know you completed them!

Thank You:

- Thank you to Laura Braceland for subbing in lunch bunch during the October teacher luncheon.
- Thank you to Prassu Mehta, Marbin Pineda, Susanne Fitch, Jennifer Brooks, Thao Hoang, Dawn Ahrens, and Jessie Auten for subbing during parent/teacher brunches.
- Thank you to SueLynn McAndrew for creating the beautiful bulletin boards that greet our children each morning.
- Thank you to Maliha Ahmad for keeping us on top of fire safety by coordinating our monthly drills and making sure our first-aid kits are well-stocked.
- Thank you to our field trip organizers – Jenny Aspillaga (3s), Mary Frizat (3/4s), and Prassu Mehta (4s) for setting up the first of the school's field trips to the pumpkin patch.
- Thank you to all who attended our October clean-up and maintenance day for keeping the school clean and safe for our kids: Jenni Beuchler, Sam Crowley, Ed Gray, Ravi Kamath, Stephanie Kamath, Paul Erickson, Marbin Pineda, Michael Emmerich, Jessie Auten, Chris Hagner, Mary Frizat, Dennis Aspillaga, Thad Lurie, Rick Brown, Tina Fu, Maliha Ahmad, and David Raich.
- Thank you to all who ordered Posh Pouches and participated in our match box swap. Both were a great success for PNS!
- Thank you to Mary Frizat and Jessie Auten for donating snacks for our Matchbox Swap and helping with the event.
- Thank you to Mr. Richard for keeping our school in such good shape and for always taking the time to make us and our children smile.
- A special thank you to our incredible teaching staff for all they do for our children each day: Jane Millward, Judy Goldstein, Sue Bengston, Susan Patton, Fatema Kanchan, Kris Lahiff, Phyllis Bruyette, Ryan Bianchetti, Emmy Cade, and Allison Hagner.
- 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!

November 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 School Pictures for 2's & 3/4's | 2 School Pictures for CDO, 3's & 4's | 3 |
| 4 | 5 FCPS ***NO | 6 Holiday School*** | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 CDO Parent Teacher Conferences PNS Board Meeting 7:30 pm in the Big Room | 13 2s Parent Teacher Conferences | 14 Enrichment: Wild Life Center 10:30 am | 15 | 16 | 17 Fall Fundraiser: Barnes & Noble Day |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Thanksgiving Luncheon 3/4s and 4s | 21 | 22 Thanksgiving ***NO  | 23 Holiday School*** | 24 |
| 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |