



November 9, 2010

## Principal's Message

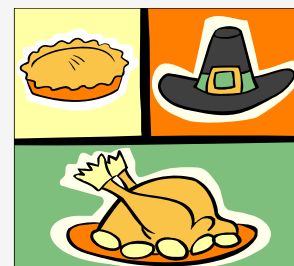
This is a big week! For those new to Providence this year, wait until you see our Thanksgiving Lunch! It's a fantastic event that has it all—great food, decorations, and so much family involvement. If there's any way that you can join your children for their Thanksgiving Lunch (either Nov. 10 or 11), please do! We'd love to have you.

For your convenience, our PTA plans our Book Fair for this week as well. Our hope is that interested parents who come to lunch will take a walk down to the library with their children after they eat. We have some great books on sale! The Book Fair will also be open on Thursday evening from 5:00-8:00. There are more details on Book Fair, Thanksgiving Lunch and so many more November events in Cara Radoll's article on page 5. Cara also notes FCPS's Southwest Boundary Study and provides the website with the most current information. This does affect Providence so I implore you to read that information. Enjoy!

I'd like to invite all parents to attend our free workshop on Patterns of Thinking on Wednesday, November 17, at 6:30 PM. This is a big event for us. Some buzzwords that get thrown around a lot in education are "21st century skills" and "critical thinking skills." We know that kids need these in order to be successful in tomorrow's world, but articulating what they are and, just as importantly, how we can teach these skills at home and school can be difficult. Dr. Derek Cabrera and Dr. Laura Colosi, experts on teaching thinking skills will join us to talk about how we can work on this ambitious goal. As you know, any work you do at home that mirrors our efforts at school makes a world of difference. We hope you can make it!

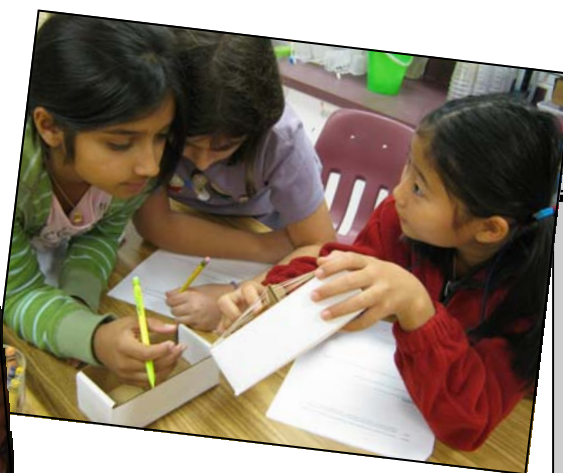
Happy November!

### Happy Thanksgiving!



Our annual **Thanksgiving Luncheons** will be held on **Nov. 10 for Grades 3-6** and **Nov. 11 for Grades K-2** in the café. Look for more information to come regarding specific times for your child's class.

Parking will be at premium, even with our new spaces. We invite you to park at Lanier Middle School if the Providence lot is full. Thanks for your understanding with this.



Providence Elementary  
School Newsletter

### November 2010

In this issue ...

Counselors' Corner	2
Need to Know	3
Inclusive Schools	4
PTA Connection	5
Calendar	6

# Counselors' Corner

Greetings, Parents!

We hope your child and family have had a great start to the year, and have settled into the busy fall routine. We spent the month of October visiting classrooms to discuss bullying. Your children should now have some good tools for handling bullying situations. Please ask your child what he/she learned about bullying.

October 25th-29th was National Red Ribbon Week. We celebrated with over 100,000 schools in the United States to help spread the important message of staying drug and alcohol free. We offered students red ribbons to wear and the opportunity to dress in a theme for the day to show they are choosing to live a healthy lifestyle. We were very pleased with how our students enthusiastically united as a school and showed their support! We would like to thank our SCA, and the many teachers and parents, who wonderfully volunteered to help with this project.



Thank you for referring your children for small group counseling. We look forward to beginning our groups soon. More information will be sent throughout the year about upcoming groups at PES.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's grade-level counselor.

Have a wonderful November!

Sarah Rupp    K, 4, 5 & 6    703-460-4424    Sarah.Rupp@fcps.edu

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Students & Teachers celebrate Red Ribbon Week

## Need to Know

### Impact Aid Survey Forms

Each year, the presence of federal activity in Virginia affects Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) operating budget. The school system is requesting your assistance in identifying federally connected students for the Impact Aid federal grant program. FCPS uses the Student-Parent Survey to inform the fed.



Many parents have already completed this form for each school-age student in their household. For those that have not, please complete, sign, and date the survey and return the completed survey to your child's teacher ASAP. The information that you provide will be treated confidentially. FCPS receives approximately \$3,500,000 annually from this grant program so we need your support in completing these forms.

### Free Seasonal Flu Clinic for Providence Students in December

This year all Title I schools in FCPS will host a free seasonal flu vaccination clinic. Providence will hold its clinic during the school day on December 10 (first dose) and then again on January 11 (second dose for those who received their first dose). This is free but voluntary, and a detailed description of the clinic along with a parent consent form will be sent home in next week's Tuesday Folder. Vaccinations will only be for Providence students—no siblings or family members who do not attend our school. Parent volunteers will be needed to help the public health nurse and her team by picking up participating students from class, helping to manage the lines, and helping with other duties. If you are able to volunteer for the day or a shift on Dec. 10 and/or Jan. 11, please contact Health Room aid Sajida Chaudhry at 703-460-4410.

### Student Tardies

We continue to have a large number of students arriving late to school each day. These students are missing an important part of their instructional day. The opening activities include morning meetings, homework checks, directions for the school day, and instructional extensions. It is important that all students be in the classroom when the bell rings at 8:10. If your child is arriving after 8:10, you are required to sign them in at the front office. Students can arrive as early as 7:55. Knowing that traffic can pose a problem, please plan accordingly, especially when it rains. We need and appreciate your help in addressing this recurring issue.

### Kiss & Ride Safety

Most parents and childcare providers do a great job considering the safety of all students when they come through our Kiss & Ride lane. But we have observed a need to give the following reminders in order to keep everyone safe:

- Drivers should not be talking on their cell phones while driving.
- When it is raining, car headlights must be on.
- Drivers should stay in their cars when their children offload.
- Drivers should always consider the amount of time they will need, factoring in traffic and weather, to drive their children to school and drop them off on time.

The school Kiss & Ride lane is no place for speeding or aggressive driving, and school must work with the police when a driver is breaking the law or creating unsafe conditions for our children. Thanks to everyone for following the rules and working with school staff and safety patrols to ensure that we're all safe.



### Early Dismissal!

All FCPS schools dismiss 2 hours early on the day before Thanksgiving. On November 24 Providence will dismiss at 12:50. Please plan accordingly.

### Human Growth & Development for 5th & 6th Graders

All 5th & 6th Grade classes in FCPS are offered five classes on human growth and development. A parent preview night for Providence parents is scheduled for Nov. 30 at 6:30. This will give parents an overview of the lessons and allow them to see the materials. These lessons will be taught during the week of December 14. Parents may choose to "opt-out" their children from these lessons by completing a form that 5th & 6th grade teachers will make available.

## A Word from your PTA Special Ed Reps:


### Early Intervention

Does your child have a younger sibling that is having trouble in the preschool setting? Are you concerned that he or she may require help before Kindergarten? If so, FCPS may have a resource for you. Child Find is the process of identifying children with potential special education needs and educating the community about child development and the importance of early intervention. Child Find services are provided through the FCPS Department of Special Services under the Early Childhood Identification and Services (ECID&S) program. Child Find screenings are free to children ages 20 months to 5 years old (must be 2 by September 30<sup>th</sup>) who are Fairfax County or City residents. ECID&S staff serve as liaisons and provide assistance and information to local community preschool, day care, Head Start and Family and Early Childhood Education Programs (FECEP). Staff also perform community outreach to increase public awareness of the importance of early intervention, and to ensure that all members of the Fairfax County community are able to access Child Find services, if needed. Although the above-mentioned programs may recommend Child Find, parents may also call directly. The Child Find location that serves children whose base school is Providence Elementary is: Dunn Loring Child Find. You may contact them at 703-204-6760.

### Parent Resource Center

Receive e-mails about special education services and Parent Resource Center (PRC) events by e-mail via Keep in Touch Plus. Subscribe today at <http://www.fcps.edu/kit/>.

For a current list of workshops sponsored by the PRC, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc> and click on Workshop Warehouse



# The Parent Resource Center

Call **703-204-3941** to register for these *free* workshops!  
For more information visit [www.fcps.edu/cco/prc](http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc)

### Anxiety & Children

What Parents Can Do To Help

November 5th – 10 a.m – noon  
Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services

### Asperger's Syndrome & High Functioning Autism:

Strategies for Improving Communication

November 9th – 10 a.m – noon  
Burke Centre Library

### Positive Behavior Strategies

Tips for Parents

November 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services

### Assessment Options

for Children with Disabilities

November 11 – 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
The Parent Resource Center

### The ABCs of Good Behavior

Strategies to reduce challenging behaviors!

November 18 – 7-9 pm  
Cardinal Forest Elementary School



## Special Announcement:

**Fall Pictures & Make-Up Day will be December 2!**

# PTA Connection

Another fun filled month at Providence! The PTA has had a busy month and as this newsletter comes home, it is without a doubt THE busiest week at Providence. **Thanksgiving Lunch** and the **Book Fair** both require loads of volunteers. We can't thank you enough for offering to help at either or both of these great events.

It's Book Fair time! All week, the Book Fair is open in the library. This is a wonderful opportunity to pick up some great gifts, expand your children's library, and explore some new fun books! We hope you'll stop by when you come in to share Thanksgiving lunch with your child. The book fair will also be open in the evening on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Remember, staff has filled out wish lists too. It's a great time to help your teacher build up their library!

Save the date! The Cultural Arts Committee is pleased to announce its first and only evening performance for this school year. On Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, members of the Dance Academy from Fairfax High School will perform The Nutcracker at Providence. These talented dancers will put a spin on a timeless classic by performing the jazz version (with some ballet and tap). Mark the date on your calendars and bring the entire family to a fun-filled, festive and FREE family event.

In October we had our Movie Under the Moon. I wanted to thank all of you who came out for your support and patience. We had to switch nights at the last minute and that popcorn just doesn't pop fast enough! We learned some good lessons that will help us make next year even better! We also had a successful Family Night Out with Red Hot and Blue of Fairfax. Thanks to all who ate well on Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>!

Our Fall fundraiser with Innisbrook is over and it was a great success. We reached our goal and the PTA thanks you all for your support. By now you've received your orders and hopefully are pleased with the quality of their products. We welcome your feedback on the quality so if you're interested in sharing, please email [info@ptaprovidence.org](mailto:info@ptaprovidence.org). If there are any outstanding problems, please direct them to Becky Whitacre at [becky.whitacre@verizon.net](mailto:becky.whitacre@verizon.net) or 703-352-1708. Within the next week or so, we'll be sending home an information sheet to wrap up this fundraiser, answers some questions that were raised during the sale and give you final numbers.

Fairfax County recently held several meetings regarding the Southwestern Boundary. The study is looking to alleviate overcrowding in several elementary schools in the Southwestern portion of the county. They are collecting feedback, possibly making some changes to their proposed plans and will vote in February on one official plan to implement. I wanted to encourage all of you to stay on top of this issue. Their website is <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/southwesternstudy/index.htm>. For Providence, they are proposing to move a small group of our current community to Fairfax Villa Elementary. There are definitely several aspects to these proposals that should cause us all to pause and consider if this is a good use of our tax dollars. I've been working with several other PTA Presidents to come up with a list of issues we should all be concerned about. We're hoping to get something out soon.

Each month, the PTA tries to coordinate some small reminder for our staff of how much we appreciate what they do for our kids. Sometimes, it's something the PTA covers and other times we'll be looking for help. In November, we'd like to ask our Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade families to donate breakfast foods for our staff (this is for ALL teachers, not just K & 1st grade staff). In the coming months, we'll ask parents at other grade levels to contribute. The way to teachers' hearts is through their stomach. These small gestures show them how great they are and keep them happy staffers! Specific information will come out later this month.

Our December PTA meeting will be held in the evening so hopefully many of you who can not come to morning meetings will come and participate. Our meeting is scheduled for Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Have a great month and enjoy this busy week at Providence!

*Cara Radoll*



Mark Your Calendar:

*Principal's Coffee*  
December 7 8:30 AM

*December PTA Meeting*  
Monday, Dec. 13 7:00 PM

*PTA Cultural Arts Show: The Nutcracker*  
December 16, 7:00 PM

*PTA Family Bingo Night*  
TBA—January

*PTA Dance!*  
February 25

# NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Parent-Teacher Conferences	2 Parent-Teacher Conferences	3 First Day of 2nd Quarter	4	5	6
7	8 PTA Meeting 9:00 AM, Conference Room	9	10 Thanksgiving Luncheon	11 Book Fair Night 5:00-8:00 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17 Parent Workshop: Patterns of Thinking, 6:30 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Early Dismissal at 12:50	25 Thanksgiving Holiday— No School	26	27
28	29	30 Parent Preview Night—Human Growth & Develop. 6:30 PM (see p. 3)				