



Principal's Message

Welcome back! Another year is upon us, and we couldn't be more excited. I am pleased to announce that Providence Elementary School has made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind. It was, in fact, a banner year for us with SOL test scores. Our overall pass rate in reading was 90%. NCLB requires that all subgroups improve each year, and at Providence we made gains in all but one subgroup in reading. In math our overall pass rate was 94% and we improved in every subgroup. In some subgroups we improved by 12 points! We made gains as a whole school in history and science as well.

Obviously, I couldn't be more proud of our students and their teachers. Our gains can be attributed to the hard work of everyone, including you. Thanks for all that you do at home to support your child here at school. It pays off!

At Open House you may have met with your child's teacher and noticed that he/she had an intern or student-teacher. Providence is a PDS or Professional Development School, and we have several teachers who are trained as clinical faculty for George Mason University. This partnership continues to thrive because Providence has so many outstanding teachers who are recognized for their skills. That's why Mason's School of Education places their students here—our staff are great mentors and models for the next generation of teachers.

And of course, you'll notice some new faces on our staff. While having a teacher who's new to Providence can be very exciting, it may also make some a little anxious at first. I want you to know I view the hiring of great people as one of the most

Want to Know What's Going on at Providence?
Check out the
Principal's Blog
Linked to www.fcps.edu/ProvidenceES
New Posts every Friday afternoon!

important things I do. That being said, I have the utmost confidence in our newest Panthers, and I know you will too. Get ready for another tremendous year. We look forward to working with you and your children to provide them with a safe, productive, and caring environment. Please let your child's teacher or the administration know if there is any way we can assist you.

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Need to Know

How To Stay Connected

Panther Press

As you may know, the Panther Press, a newsletter from both the school and the PTA is sent home in Tuesday Folders once a month. There's always important dates and information in each issue. Please read!

City of Fairfax Schools—*Close Up* Newsletter

The City of Fairfax Schools newsletter, *Close Up* is available on the web and will feature a new, user-friendly format this year. We highly recommend that you subscribe by using this link: <http://cityoffairfaxschools.org/subscribe>

The Principal's Blog

This is updated each Friday . The Blog does not publish school policies, ask for information, or serve as official notification of school events. Instead, the blog highlights the teaching and learning that occurred at Providence over the course of the week. It's a window into what goes on here.

Keep In Touch

If you haven't already done so, we strongly encourage you to register your email address and phone number with Keep In Touch. This allows us to send messages to Providence families regarding events and time-sensitive issues such as weather-related school delays or closings. To register, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Keep In Touch to the left. There is also a link on the Providence website.

The Providence Website

We take great pride in our website, and the homepage is updated regularly with recent pictures and news updates. Many pages on the site have been redesigned to promote a cleaner, more user-friendly site. Much of the content has been revised as well. Take a look at www.fcps.edu/ProvidenceES

Parent View

All teachers maintain a Blackboard (FCPS 24/7) site which maintains student assignments as well as other information. If you have an account from past years, it will still work this year with the same password. If you have forgotten your password, call 1-866-434-8880. If you are new to Parent View, you can learn more on the Providence website (click the Parent View link). We will facilitate registrations and verifications in our computer lab during Open House and prior to Back to School Nights, beginning at 6:30

New Process for Tuesday Folders

Each Tuesday, teachers send home packets of information from school. In order to conserve paper this year, we will only be sending school, PTA, City or FCPS information home in the folder of one child per family. In order to make this work, students with older siblings at Providence will be given a white Tuesday Folder and the oldest sibling and children without siblings at Providence will be given a yellow Tuesday Folder. Only students with yellow folders will be given the aforementioned paperwork. Students with white folders are still expected to bring home their folders for your signature, since they may contain their school work and notices that are specific to the child or grade level.

If you find that none of your children has a yellow folder, please contact the teacher so that we can correct this. We thank you for your patience and your support in reducing paper waste.

Change to Cafeteria Menu

This year FCPS's Food Services will not be selling chocolate milk at lunch in any FCPS school. Skim and 1% milk will still be available in our café.

Back to School Nights

Back to School Nights are a great way to learn about your child's teacher, the curriculum, the grade level, and other important information relevant to the year ahead. Back to School Night is for parents & guardians only. There are no activities for children. The schedule follows:

September 15 Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades
September 16 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades

Both Back to School Nights begin at 7:00 PM . Teachers will present two identical sessions with one scheduled from 7:00-7:45 and one immediately following from 7:45-8:30. This is to accommodate parents of siblings who have multiple teachers to visit. This year there will be no special assembly with the principal at Back to School Night. At 7:00 you should go directly to your child's classroom.



PTA Connection

Hello Panther Families,

Welcome back to the start of another great year at Providence Elementary School. If you're new to Providence, as either a staff member or student/family, Welcome! I hope you find Providence to be a wonderful community for your entire family. For our veteran families, I hope this year will be as good as all the others you've had at Providence!



My name is Cara Radoll and I am the PTA president. This will be my second year in this position. My son is entering into 6th grade and my daughter is entering 4th grade. I really do enjoy the Providence community. I appreciate all the friendships I've made and look forward to new ones too.

It wouldn't be a message from the PTA if it didn't include a plea to get involved. I hope everyone WANTS to be involved and looks for opportunities to do so. With so many ways to be involved, I'm sure we can find one that fits into your schedule. All PTA sponsored events are supposed to be fun for the kids. It's easy to be a part of the fun! I encourage you to participate, volunteer, come to events, and meet other families! Be a part of the Providence Community and get involved in any way you can. The PTA will give you plenty of opportunities to jump in!

The PTA has already been very busy. We held our annual Back to School Teacher Breakfast on Monday August 30th. A huge Thank You to Sue Elgart and Susan Smullen for organizing this event. And Thank You to the many volunteers who helped set-up and bring food. The breakfast was a success and the teachers had a warm welcome for their first day back.

Our first **PTA meeting** will be held on Monday, September 13th at 9:00am in the conference room, just past the office and clinic. Please come by if you can, see what the PTA has going on and voice your opinion.

Every fall, the PTA holds our largest **fundraiser**. This year, the PTA will indeed have a fundraiser and we'll be selling Innisbrook Wraps. Innisbrook is similar to the types of fundraisers we've had in the past but we're hoping it's going to be just different enough to be a great success for our school this year. One big difference is your involvement. Each family will enter their own orders on-line through Innisbrook's EZ Order Entry. You can do it!!! Our sale will run September 14-30th so only two weeks to reach our goal of \$10,000. Look for your catalog and other information in the September 14th Tuesday folder.

I also encourage you to **become a PTA member**. Your dues go toward the many programs and activities that make Providence so special. A membership form was sent home in the first Tuesday folder that you should have received at the Open House. Please fill it out and return it to school with your child. Make your check payable to the PES PTA.

The PTA does have a website. We're working on getting it updated now but please visit **www.ptaprovidence.org**. We're always adding new information to keep you informed!

Please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number listed below if you have any questions, suggestions or problems. I hope you will consider joining the PTA and volunteering your time with us. You can help make Providence a wonderful community!

Cara Radoll
703-273-0066
info@ptaprovidence.org

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 OPEN HOUSE Ice Cream Social	3	4
5	6	7 First Day of School!	8	9	10	11
12	13 PTA Meeting 9:00 AM	14 Principal's Coffee 8:15-9:15 <i>PTA Fundraiser begins!</i>	15 Back to School Night, K-2 7:00 PM	16 Back to School Night, 3-6 7:00 PM	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <i>PTA Fundraiser ends!</i>		

Dates to Remember:

- City of Fairfax School Board Meeting - City Hall, Sept. 13, 7:30 PM
- Columbus Day Holiday - October 11
- Parent-Teacher Conference Days - November 1 & 2

Principal's Coffee



Tuesday, 9/14
8:15-9:15 AM

Providence Library

Topic: Programs at Providence

Come meet the administration and hear about the wonderful programs and initiatives we have at our school!