



Please remember...

Our school hours have changed this year!

Monday

8:10 a.m. — 12:20 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday

8:10a.m. — 2:50 p.m.

Students should be in their classroom by 8:10.

Please no drop offs prior to 7:55

Principal's Message

Can you believe it's October already? It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating Open House. Now we're half-way through the first quarter. Teachers' Blackboard sites are up and running (check them out!), our SCA officers have been elected (great campaigning, all candidates!), our science and computer labs are in full use, band and strings classes for upper grade students have started, and classroom morning meetings have become routine. In no time at all, we'll be having parent-teacher conferences (Nov. 2-3)!

Parents, as we move forward, we want to say thank you for your efforts at home to promote learning. Thank you for always asking your child, "What did you learn today in school?" and for always expecting an answer. Thank you for your work supporting our teachers—it makes all the difference!

Many important events and news items are noted in this month's Panther Press. Enjoy!

-Jesse Kraft

Want a glimpse into what makes Providence Special?

Check out the...

Principal's Blog!

Link to it from the PES homepage at <http://www.fcps.edu/ProvidenceES>

New posts every Friday afternoon!

Providence Kids Were Keeping It Cool This Summer

Providence students were busy with many activities this summer thanks to the summer learning K.I.C.K. activities. Last June, students were given a brochure with many choices of activities in math, science, social studies, reading and writing to enjoy with their families. When they returned their K.I.C.K. brochures the second week of school, they were treated to popsicles as they met in small groups to share what they had learned. A big thank you is extended to the staff and parents who helped facilitate the group sharing in each class.



Providence Elementary
School Newsletter

October 2009

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Online Resources For Parents

Keep in Touch: Please register your email address with Keep in Touch. This allows us to send email messages to all Providence families regarding early closings and other time sensitive issues. To receive Keep In Touch emails, please make sure you have registered your email address with your child's emergency care card information or on WeCare via Parent View.

Parent View: Parents are now able to access their children's Blackboard pages with one easy click. In addition, parents are able to update emergency card information. For more detailed information go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ProvidenceES/> and click the FCPS 24/7 Parent View icon on the right side of the page.

You can call our technology specialist at (703) 460-4400.

Construction Projects

Thank you for your caution as you drive and walk down Jermantown Road amid the construction efforts. This project to widen Jermantown Road will continue for months.

City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation will begin work on parts of the grounds on October 12. This work is always conducted after school hours.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15-October 15. During that time we recognize Hispanic culture through student sharing on our morning broadcast, WPES.

Cell Phone Use in Kiss & Ride

Please do not talk or text on your cell phones or handheld devices while driving through the Kiss & Ride. We literally have hundreds of people ages 4-elderly adult walking alongside the parking lot, and we need EVERYONE'S cooperation to ensure a safe, accident-free arrival and dismissal procedure.

General Safety

Please remind your children to go directly home from school each day when they are dismissed. Bus riders should go directly home from their bus stop. The safest time to walk through the neighborhoods is when there are groups of students and parents present.

From the Advanced Academic Programs (formerly GT) Specialist

Important Dates — County-wide Parent AAP Information Nights:

10/08/09 McLean HS

10/13/09 Oakton HS

10/15/09 Annandale HS

10/19/09 West Potomac

Meetings will be held in the auditorium from 7:30-9:00 PM and are open to the public. No registration required.

Providence Parent GT Information Night:

10/15/09 — 6:00-7:00-Library

Ms. Brown will discuss the different levels of service, programs at our school, the screening process, etc. Contact information:

srbrown1@fcps.edu 703-460-4467

More information from FCPS about Advanced Academic Programs is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

A Message from the PTA President

Welcome back Panthers! We have a month under our belt, the quick pace of the beginning of the school year is over, and so far, so good! During my first month as President, I've learned a great deal. I appreciate all your patience while I learn my new job.

We already have many "Thank You's" to hand out. So many people helped to get the year started with the Teachers' Back to School breakfast, delivering school supplies, packing the first Tuesday folders, providing information for our PTA database, and participating in several committees. Thank you all so much – we couldn't show our staff and kids how much they mean to us without everyone's help!

Our first and biggest fundraiser of the year is over. Thanks to everyone for selling Sally Foster goods. If you haven't turned in your order form, please do so immediately. We'll be tallying up the orders on Wednesday, October 7th.

Our Sock Hop has a whole new look! This year, we're having the Storybook Character Dance, Friday October 16th from 6-8. Admission is \$1, maximum of \$5 per family. All are welcome! Invite your neighbor with preschool children! It should be a fun night. Look for the flyer in your Tuesday folder.

I am still looking for two individuals to serve on the Southwestern Regional Planning Study Committee. The School Board formed this committee to 1. address concerns for increasing student enrollment and capacity deficits in many elementary schools in the southwestern region of the county and 2. address challenges associated with the scheduled renovation of Clifton Elementary School. If you're interested in serving on this committee or need more information, please contact me at 703-273-0066 or info@ptaprovidence.org.

Our next PTA meeting is Monday, October 19th at 9:00am. I hope you're able to join us! Check our website for lots of great and useful information, www.ptaprovidence.org.

-Cara Radoll

Counselor Corner

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Providence Elementary School! Sarah Rupp is a full-time counselor working with grades K, 4, 5 & 6 and Jaime Stanton is our other full-time counselor working with grades 1, 2, 3 & 6. Our job is to meet the needs of our students and families in order to help our children be successful and do their best learning.

How can I contact the counselor?

Sarah Rupp at 703-460-4424 Sarah.rupp@fcps.edu

Jaime Stanton at 703-460-4426 Jaime.stanton@fcps.edu

What does the counselor do? It is important that a counselor establish a trusting relationship with the children. The child needs to know that she will be there to listen and reflect his/her feelings, thoughts and concerns. Initially, the counselor's role is to listen and convey understanding. Subsequently, the goal is to guide the child towards working on new solutions that will help them deal with their concerns.

What are some of the services the counselors will offer? This year, our counseling program will offer a number of services to meet the needs of our students and families. Here are a few answers to some of the questions you may have about the counseling program.

Individual Counseling: Children have a variety of academic, social, and personal issues and needs depending on their developmental ages. Younger children may see the counselor as a friend, knowing this person will help them if they are afraid or worried about something at school. Older children often bring social concerns, friendship issues, and conflict resolution needs, but also share feelings about fears and anxieties about schoolwork and peer pressure. Parental permission may be requested for on going counseling.

How does my child seek individual counseling? Children can request an initial visit with the counselor by using the available forms outside the counselor's office. Teachers and parents can also refer students for individual counseling. Parents are also invited to call and/or make an appointment to see us. We are happy to discuss resources and services that may help your children and families.

* Sometimes parents express concern about their children being singled out or labeled if they see the counselor. We stress that all children experience problems at one time or another. In fact, it is through these problems that children gain insights and skills to deal with future problems that will occur. Therefore, counseling becomes a preventative tool to help kids develop and achieve academically as well as socially and emotionally.

Group Counseling: Group counseling is an excellent way to work with students on a variety of issues. Working in groups helps children discover that they are not alone in feeling a particular way. In addition, they receive feedback and support from their peers that is often encouraging and positive. Some examples of the types of groups include, changing families, stress management, organization, and social/friendship skills. Groups usually meet for approximately 30 minutes and we work with teachers in establishing the best time so we do not interfere with academic time.

How is it determined what children get into groups? Children may be invited to join a group at the request of a teacher, parent, counselor, or even by the child him/herself. If a child is selected for a group a permission slip will be sent home.

Classroom Guidance: Guidance lessons are an integrated part of the curriculum. The counselors provide monthly guidance lessons on topics such as friendship, diversity, study skills, conflict resolution, or any other topics that the classroom teacher deems necessary. Students can be opted out of guidance lessons.

Lunch Bunches: Students are invited to request to have lunch with the counselor and a few friends of their choosing. This is a time for students to socialize and allows the counselor to get to know students in a more relaxed setting.

Business Partner Update

We are very excited about our continuing relationships with our business partners YRCI, Apple Federal Credit Union, NPMA and the Assistance League. Our mentoring program has already begun and we are looking forward to a great year with all of our business partners!



National Pest Management Association Inc.
INTERNATIONAL



October 2009

Providence School & PTA Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Title I Parent Night 6:30 PM</i>	6 <i>Interim Reports sent home for selected students.</i>	7 <i>Picture Day</i>	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Columbus Day School Closed</i>	13	14 <i>Advanced Academic Program Info Night 6:00-7:00 PM</i>	15	16 <i>Storybook Character Dance 6-8:00 PM, gym</i>	17
18	19 <i>PTA Meeting 9:00 AM, confirm</i>	20 <i>CogAT Test—2nd grade</i>	21 <i>CogAT Test—2nd grade</i>	22 <i>CogAT Test—2nd grade</i>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>End of 1st Quarter</i>	31

Note: No classes for students on Nov. 2-3. These are Teacher Work Days for Parent-Teacher Conferences