

September 20, 2016

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Coming Up

Thu, Sep 22	Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A (Arboretum)
Mon, Sep 26	School Picture Day
Mon, Oct 3	No School - Rosh Hashanah
Oct 4-11	Fall Personal Best Challenge Runs
Wed, Oct 5	PTA Meeting, 9:30 AM Everyone welcome!
Sun, Oct 9	Providence Presbyterian Church Pancake Breakfast

Next Rocket Review on Tue, Oct 4

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A Message from Our Principal

Dear PSE Families,

Of all the sources of potential problems or misunderstandings I have seen over the years, **the most serious obstacles to success are miscommunication, poor communication or no communication at all among the different participants of an organization.** The communication “demon” can derail the worthiest of efforts and the loftiest of goals in every environment. It really doesn't matter which organization we're talking about. It could be a Boy Scout troop, a book club, or it could be the halls of Congress. Whatever the group, if good two-way communication does not exist, there will be bedlam and chaos at worse and dysfunction and unproductivity at best.



So let's work hard this year to derail this troublesome communication “demon” before he derails our efforts. Let's make sure that all of us understand the rules of civility in thought, talk, and action. Let's be transparent about decision-making, problem solving and the norms and values that characterize a high functioning and supportive environment for student learning. Finally, let's make good and

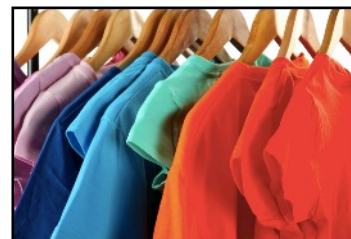
accurate information a free and abundant commodity here at PSE so there will be no need to turn to assumptions, hearsay and best guesses to understand the environment our children live in daily.

We promise to do our part in this free flow of information and we trust that you will be our partner in this endeavor by asking questions, providing feedback and as Steven Covey would say (The Seven Habits guy) seeking to understand as well as seeking to be understood.

Our doors are open. Our telephone bill has been paid and our email is working. If something doesn't feel quite right; if a message isn't clear; if you just need clarification on an issue, **get in touch with us.** We all want to be your go-to partners in this wonderful experience we share called Providence Spring.

So now, let's talk about the PSE dress code for students...

The dress code is found on **pages 20 and 21 of the PSE Parent Handbook** which can be found on the PSE website. (On the left hand menu click “PSE Forms and Information.” In the center of this page, click PSE Parent Handbook.)



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from [page 1](#)) Though we sometimes hear from parents who would like to consider uniforms, most of our school community feels that dress is one way for our students to express individuality. We do, however, want our students to have the freedom to run, jump, sit on the floor and do all the activities children should do while keeping their modesty intact and while not having to constantly tug at their clothing. With every change of season, we encourage our families to review the dress code before going shopping for school clothes.

Let's talk about carpool...

Morning carpool usually begins lining up at 7:00 AM. **Students should always remain in their cars** until the carpool helpers arrive on duty at 7:30 AM and the school doors open for students to enter the building.

Students should never be dropped off at carpool prior to reaching the carpool helpers and parents should not park and walk in unless they have a volunteer commitment or an appointment in the building. Those who are coming into the building from a parked car should only cross at the crosswalk which is between the first and second carpool helper. The carpool helper will wave the walkers over during a time when all cars are stopped to let out their passengers. The tardy bell rings at 8:00, at which time students should be in their classrooms, unpacked and seated, ready to begin their morning work. Students who need additional help or who have academic questions should come right at 7:30. The teachers are in their rooms and begin their instruction at that time.

Children who are tardy (including children who are in the building but who are not in their rooms when the tardy bell rings) will need to sign in at the front office and secure a tardy pass to enter the classroom.



Afternoon carpool... Parents who have kindergartners or first graders are encouraged to arrive early for carpool since these boys and girls are the first students to be dismissed. **That being said, there is no "breaking in line" for parents of our youngest students.** The line is first come, first served.

After the line forms at the sidewalk, leading up to the front door, the next car lines up on the inside of the median facing the semi-circle of parked cars. **This semi-circle of cars should never be blocked by carpool drivers.** These are employee cars and some of our staff

members have after-school appointments. In addition, this area needs to remain clear for day care vans to come in and take the left hand lane without having to drive up on the median.

Parents who have afternoon appointments with teachers and others on the staff will need to alert the carpool supervisor and park in the lot instead of going through the carpool line. **All parents who are picking up children by car need to stay in the carpool line.** Finally, regular carpool parents **need to have a card with the child's name printed in bold letters on the dash or hanging from the mirror** so staff can have the child ready for a quick and efficient pick-up.

Are there topics you want to know more about? We have some we'd like to include in other Rocket Reviews, but we also want to hear questions or suggestions that you may have. **Together, we are going to make this year a magical experience for each child here ...** and remember "together" is the word that starts it all in motion.

-Diane Adams, Principal



The School Store opened its doors on Monday, September 19!

Hours of Operation: Mon/Wed/Fri - 7:30 AM to 7:55 AM

Fun, new items in stock – including Panthers products! All items under \$2.

Fall Personal Best Challenge Run

Tuesday, October 4 - Tuesday, October 11

It's that time of year when the children head out to the track during their regularly scheduled PE time for the Personal Best Challenge Run.

Volunteer responsibilities are simple, yet **very important**. Your job is to come during your child's class, and **keep a tally of how many laps they run** in their given time period. For the Challenge Run to go smoothly and effectively we need at least **SIX VOLUNTEERS PER CLASS!!!** Please review the Challenge Run day and time chart below to see if you can help count laps.



Please check in at the table by the track 10 minutes prior to your child's run time (even if you're a pro at counting laps) so we know that the class is covered with enough volunteers. *If you are late your spot may be given to someone else.

Thank you so much!

Tuesday, October 4	Wednesday, October 5	Thursday, October 6
	8:15 Lynch (2)	8:15 Trevisan (2)
9:10 Safran (1)	9:10 Denton (1)	9:10 Shelton (1)
10:05 Bridges (K)	10:05 Bubany (K)	10:05 Kirchendorfer (K)
11:00 Edwards (2)	11:00 Hamilton (2)	11:00 McMurray (2)
12:20 Fletcher (5)	12:20 Grabon (5)	12:20 Sanford (5)
1:15 McCrocklin (4)	1:15 Pistorio (4)	1:15 Surratt (4)
2:10 Horgan (3)	2:10 Langeland (3)	2:10 Langlois (3)
Friday, October 7	Monday, October 10	Tuesday, October 11
	8:15 Hinton (K)	8:15 Simpson (K)
9:10 Stewart (1)	9:10 Mayer (1)	9:10 Rice (1)
10:05 White (K)	10:05 Aquilone (K)	10:05 Bobbins (K)
11:00 Romig (2)	11:00 Chapman (2)	11:00 DeJuneas (2)
12:20 Shipman (5)	12:20 Bernier-Lucien (5)	12:20 Blaszak (5)
1:15 Nido (3)	1:15 Arbo (4)	1:15 Columbus (4)
2:10 Vick (3)	2:10 Adamson (3)	2:10 Brown (3)

* If you can volunteer for your child's class, please sign up using SignUpGenius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084caea62ea1fc1-fall>.

For any questions regarding your volunteering, please contact Amanda Wyatt at wwhitlowwyatt@hotmail.com or Krista Powis at klt12275@yahoo.com. If you have any questions about the Challenge Run, please email Mrs. Wyatt at Lindsay.maxson@cms.k12.nc.us.

***Remember you can also run with your child if you would like!!!

Thank you so very much for your continuous support.



We're Looking for a Few Good Dads - for Dad Corps!

What is the volunteer DAD CORPS? Dads who volunteer for a half hour before school starts. It's a great way for Dads to help out before school begins. We are Hall Monitors at school in the morning from 7:20-8:00 AM.



Drive your kid(s) to school in the morning, stay for a half hour and volunteer as a hall monitor. It's a great way to start the day! Say good morning to kids as they head to class, give them high fives, fist bumps and help them if they need help. Sign up for one day, multiple days, last minute when available - whatever works best for you.

If interested, please contact Jason Gudzunus at jasongudzunus@yahoo.com or (323) 394-3085. An introductory email will be sent explaining the program and providing you a link to the SignUpGenius site so you can pick the mornings convenient for you. Once registered you can sign up via SignUpGenius for as few/many days as you are available. Last minute cancellations are OK.

Please join the Dad Corps volunteer team today!

School Bus 101

A Guide to Successfully Riding the Bus to and from School

Each year, many new students ride the school bus for the very first time. This can be an exciting first experience for our youngest Rockets as well as a familiar tradition for our seasoned riders. We encourage all our Rockets to ride the bus to and from school. It's free and gets you to school on time!

The primary goal is to ensure a safe and secure ride. At the same time, riding the bus is a privilege. Every Rocket is expected to abide by the bus rules, which are extremely simple and easy to understand. Please review these rules with your child to ensure they understand the responsibilities that come with this privilege.



- Keep your hands, head, and feet inside the bus.
- No touching other students or their belongings.
- No hitting, spitting, pinching, or fighting.

● Keep your voice down while riding.

● No eating or drinking on the bus.

● Refrain from using cellular telephones and other electronic devices while on the bus.

If a student causes a disturbance on the bus, the driver will write a

referral and notify the office. If a student receives a second referral from the driver, he will lose the privilege of riding the school bus, and the parent or guardian will have the responsibility of getting their child to and from school. The CMS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook states that any behavior, which substantially distracts the bus driver and causes, or has the potential to cause, a safety hazard on a moving bus, may result in an automatic bus suspension.

Riding the bus should be a positive and safe experience for every Rocket. Students are expected to be respectful to each other, responsible for their actions, and continue to build positive relationships with one another. Please encourage your child to inform the bus driver, a teacher, or an administrator if a problem arises while on the bus.

Did you know?

Parents can join the **Remind** group for bus information texts.

Simply text **@pseb to 81010**. You will receive a confirmation text letting you know you are part of the PSE Buses group.

You may opt out at any time by replying "unsubscribe @pseb."



- Always sit in your assigned seat.
- Be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to a scheduled stop time.
- Obey the bus driver and cooperate with him/her.
- Stay in your seat until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- Cross the street in **FRONT** of the bus and in full view of the driver.
- Don't ask the driver to make a special stop for you. He/she is not allowed to do so.
- Board and depart only at your assigned bus stop.

New Teacher Assistant Introductions

Jamie Albright, Teacher Assistant



In life we are fortunate to find an experience or group of people where we feel at home, where we can grow and thrive. PSE has been that place for me.

I began as a Kindergarten Assistant in PSE's second year. The combination of skills needed fit my areas of interest and development. After working with K, 1st, and 2nd grades, I joined the EC Department. I particularly enjoy working closely with the teachers and small groups to support our learners.

My husband, Richard, and I have moved to several parts of the U.S. The adventure of exploring each area has been an enriching experience. Along the way though, our family lake house in the Adirondacks of New York has provided a permanence for us and our extended family. We had a wonderful vacation with our daughters, Lindsey and Courtney, and their families and friends at that special spot this summer.

In addition to spending time with my family in the outdoors, I also enjoy yoga, tennis, reading, walking with friends, and baking. I am very excited to be back with my coworkers and the students at PSE.

Lori Benton, Teacher Assistant



My name is Lori Benton. I currently serve as a second grade assistant. Previously, I served as a PSE kindergarten assistant for two years and as a parent volunteer for over six years.

I am from the great county of Halifax located in the south central part of Virginia. Go Comets! I graduated from Averett University in Danville, Virginia with a double major in Management and Marketing. Go Cougars! My professional background has been in community relations, sales and corporate training.

My family moved here over 6 years ago. We love Charlotte! Go Panthers! Just last year, my son, Coleman graduated from PSE after having been at PSE since kindergarten.

In my spare time, I enjoy walks with my dogs, Georgia and Libby, bike rides with my family, watching the Panthers win and dinner/movie dates with my husband, Josh. On a rainy day you will find me curled up with a good book, on the couch with popcorn and a movie or board games with the family.

It is my honor and privilege to work alongside these wonderful, dedicated and talented teachers here at PSE. Even more so, it is truly a gift to me to witness our children at PSE develop into the leaders of the future.

Yvette Sickler, Teacher Assistant



Hello PSE! My name is Yvette Sickler. I am the Teacher's Assistant for Ms. Kirchendorfer's Kindergarten/First Grade class. Prior to receiving this wonderful and exciting opportunity, I worked as a Registered Nurse. I received

my Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2003, and have thirteen years of experience.

In 2015, my family and I moved to Charlotte. This was my first move outside of my hometown, Savannah, GA. It has been a great experience thus far! My two children attend this fantastic school and have made so many friends at PSE. What more could a parent want? Well, I knew I wanted to become part of the PSE family too! So, here I am!!

In my spare time, I love to travel, bake, explore, and go hiking with my family. There is so much to do and see in Charlotte. I'm very excited about this school year and can't wait to see what this year has to offer!

New Teacher Assistant Introductions (continued)

Kim Stone, Teacher Assistant



Hello PSE! I am Kim Stone and you can find me working wherever needed in the school. My 19 year-old son, Will, began Kindergarten when PSE opened, so I have been involved off and on at PSE since the school opened. Besides serving on the PTA board all 6

years that my son was a Rocket, I have also worked as a Teacher Assistant, Office Assistant and Cafeteria Monitor at Providence Spring.

I have been married 29 years to my husband Greg, who works at Duke Energy, and have lived in Charlotte all 29 years. I also have an older son named Tyler and an 11 year-old dog named Ashe.

I graduated from North Carolina State University a long time ago, and am so happy to have fellow Wolfpackers, Mr. Vick and Ms. DeJuneas, as PSE staffers. In my spare time I enjoy taking photographs, visiting my little beach place at Oak Island, NC, and going to the Charlotte Checkers hockey games.

I am so happy to be back at PSE and remember, "Mrs. Stone ROCKS!"

Cindy Tanner, Teacher Assistant



Hi, my name is Cindy Tanner and I am so excited to be a Teaching Assistant for 1st Grade and a PSE Rocket! Providence Spring has given me such a warm welcome – thank you!

Originally from Wisconsin, I graduated from NC State University and moved to Charlotte with my

husband, Ken, 25 years ago. We have 2 children, Savanna and Max. Savanna is a Junior at Appalachian State University and Max is a Senior at Ardrey Kell High School. I love spending time with my family – we love the mountains and the beach. Lately, we have especially enjoyed challenging mountain hikes in & around Boone!

Thank you again PSE for a wonderful welcome, I'm looking forward to an exciting year!

Joanna Wood, Teacher Assistant



Hello Providence Spring Rockets! My name is Joanna Wood. I am a very proud Rocket parent and thrilled to have the opportunity to become a part of the fantastic teaching team at PSE. I am originally from the UK and moved to Charlotte in January 2015 from Alberta, Canada. I graduated in

1998 with a BA in Business Studies and have been fortunate to travel the world with my husband and my children. I previously worked in a private all-girls school in the UK and have volunteered many hours in all of the different schools my children have attended. Most recently I have been teaching middle school children to play the cello and was very fortunate to conduct one of Jay M Robinson's string groups at an awards ceremony. I was so nervous, but everyone played beautifully!

As well as traveling and playing the cello, I like to horse ride, ski, read and watch my children take part in all their various sports and activities. I can't wait to get involved with all the learning opportunities and projects that the students will be doing this year – Here's to a great year at PSE!

PTA Update

Not able to attend the last PTA Board meeting? We know not everyone can make it on Wednesday mornings, but we want to make it easy for you to stay informed. In the *Rocket Review* following each meeting, you will now find a link to the minutes!

[Minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, September 7](#)

Art Students Excel!

PSE is proud to have so many talented artists among our students. In the coming weeks, a number of these artists will have their work on display around Charlotte.

From September 23rd through 25th, Charlotte's Art In the Park, held at Freedom Park, will display artwork by CMS students, including a few of our own Rockets! Congratulations!



During the month of October, second graders will have their owl paintings on display at the South Charlotte Regional Library, located

on Rea Road. Way to go!

We are so proud of our PSE artists!

Pancake Breakfast

Why Providence Spring Celebrates Our First and Our Strongest School Partner, Providence Presbyterian Church

Long, long ago, 2002 to be exact, Providence Spring was built to house the overflow of McKee Road Elementary School which at that time was the largest elementary school in the state with over 1,600 students in grades K-5.

It was clear that we were in a bit of trouble when August came and the building was not complete and, of course, there was no certificate of occupancy on the horizon.

Staff meetings and in-service events had been held at various locations throughout Matthews and at **Providence Presbyterian Church**.

The Meet the Teacher event was postponed until the very last minute which was the Friday before school began on Monday. What were we to do? Our neighbor invited us over and we had our first Meet and Greet at **Providence Presbyterian Church**.

As a "welcome to the neighborhood" gift, we received a beautiful photo of the rock covered spring for which we are named and a history of the Providence Community

of which we were now a part. The photo and the book given to us by our partner, **Providence Presbyterian Church**, are both in our media center and enjoyed by all to this day.

It became quite clear to us early on that one commodity which would always be in scarce supply here at Providence Spring would be parking space real estate. With a large employee base, a record number of visitors, and the most active PTA/parent group in the system, we could easily fill a parking deck. We only had to make our problem known to our special guardian angel up the driveway and, like magic, we now have use of their main parking lot, and the lot across Alexa for our overflow events such as Celebration of Nations and our annual 5th Grade Graduation. Again, **Providence Presbyterian Church** has come to our rescue.

Early on, a Providence Spring legend, Steve Houser who is now retired, assumed the duties of "Guardian of the Grounds" as he realized the value of the two campuses for both nature studies and historic studies since this area was a "hotbed" of Patriot activity during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Houser, a native of Indian Trail, has more connections in this area than anyone I know



and arranged for our faculty to use the historic cemetery, the walkway down to and the area around the rock covered spring and on several occasions each year, he even secured permission for our 5th graders to visit the sanctuary as they were learning about the work of the Continental Congress. **Providence Presbyterian Church** felt quite confident that Mr. Houser and other faculty and our children would treat their grounds as respectfully as we treat our own.

So, for all these reasons, each year I place flowers in the sanctuary of **Providence Presbyterian** with a note in their bulletin reminding them of how fortunate we feel to have such a giving neighbor and a supporting partner right next door and pledging our (Continued on [page 8](#))

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[page 7](#))

support of their activities as they have supported us from the time we were just a drawing in an architect's office. This year the flowers and bulletin note will appear on September 25th.

So, I hope you will join me if your schedule is so inclined to support our neighbor in their **October 9 Pancake Breakfast** (see flyer here). Proceeds will go to help families in need and if the breakfast is like anything else we have seen them do, it will be an event worth the price of a ticket.

Here's to another year of working together with our friends at **Providence Presbyterian Church**.

-Diane Adams,
Principal

ALL YOU CAN EAT

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 **\$10 ADULT**
8 AM TO 11 AM **\$5 CHILD (12 & under)**

Purchase tickets in advance (recommended)
or at the door. Proceeds benefit the Deacon's Fund, helping families in need.

Providence Presbyterian
704-846-1079 ~ 10140 Providence Church Lane, Charlotte 28277

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