

August 24, 2018

## In This Issue

A Message from the PTA President	<u>2</u>
Yearbook Photos Needed	<u>2</u>
Make the Most of Your PSE PTA Donation	<u>3</u>
Help Metro School, Our CMS School Mate	<u>3</u>
Sign Up for the PSE Directory	<u>4</u>
Link Your VIC Card	<u>4</u>
School Store News	<u>4</u>
PSE's Guide to Online Resources	<u>5</u>
Proposed PTA Budget	<u>6</u>
Meet Our New Staff, Faculty	<u>7</u>
2018-2019 PSE PTA Calendar	<u>12</u>

## Coming Up

Mon, Aug 27	First Day of School/Metro School drive begins
Mon, Sept 3	No School – Labor Day
Wed, Sept 5	PTA Meeting – 9:30 AM Rocket Cafe ALL ARE WELCOME
Thu, Sept 6	Open House K-2, 6:30 PM
Wed, Sept 12	Early Release Day
Thu, Sept 13	Open House 3-5, 6:30 PM
Fri, Sept 14	Movie Night @ Promenade Metro School drive ends Parent Packs due
Tue, Sept 18	New Parent Coffee, 9:30 AM
Wed, Sept 19	No School – Teacher Workday
Mon, Sept 24	Go/Play/Save sale ends

Next Rocket Review: September 28  
 Submission deadline: September 24

## Contacts

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[How to Submit Rocket Review Content](#)

## A Letter from Mr. Barnes

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at Providence Spring Elementary School, home of the Rockets! All of us here at PSE are eagerly anticipating your arrival and look forward to an exciting academic year with your/our children.



This year we look forward to a rigorous curriculum in all the subjects just as you are used to. Our language of civility will continue as we embark on exciting new challenges with all our youngsters. Safety is very important to us here at PSE. We have worked to get a new door installed to better ensure our students are safe. In addition to a rigorous academic curriculum, we plan to infuse social-emotional learning to our day. We have a phenomenal team in place and know we can offer an education to the students like no other school can!

We will continue to focus on our four pillars, which is the secret to our success.

**Pillar #1 is our belief in the Paideia principles of teaching and learning.** These instructional strategies make it possible to provide challenging and rigorous content to all students. In July a team of nine faculty members attended a Paideia leadership conference, which allowed time to plan for the year's seminars and Paideia projects with the support of the National Paideia Center staff.

**Pillar #2 is our commitment to incorporating the use of educational technology into our daily instruction as our teachers bring the world into their classrooms.** Along with the use of educational technology comes the ethics of technology use with instructional sessions required for students and offered to parents.

**Pillar #3 is our commitment to outdoor education and environmental conservation.** This commitment is school-wide starting at Kindergarten and continuing through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Nature journaling is one example of how our PSE Rockets study the out of doors.

**Pillar #4 is our passion for character development and our commitment to teaching and modeling the norms and values that underscore democratic thought and personal and civic responsibility.**

These are the four unique pillars that form the foundation of what we think, what we say, what we do and who we are here at PSE. I can't thank you enough for choosing PSE as your school family. We appreciate the trust you have given us and we are grateful that you are providing us the opportunity to be a part of your child's academic journey.

Thank you,

**Ran Barnes**  
Principal



## A Message from the PTA President



Whether this is your first year at Providence Spring Elementary (PSE) or you are a seasoned Rocket Family, I would like to extend a very warm

welcome to you all, on behalf of the PSE PTA. I know that you are as excited as we are to be starting the new school year.

My name is Michelle Kidd and I am honored and enthusiastic to serve as your PTA president for the 2018-19 school year. I have three children at PSE, and this will be the only year they will all be in the same school at the same time (if all goes according to plan). My oldest daughter, Joey will be a 5<sup>th</sup> grader; my middle daughter Alex, will be in 1<sup>st</sup>; and my son, Luca will enter Kindergarten. Clearly, I am very invested in PSE!

As I embark on my year as PTA President, I am looking forward to continuing the working partnership that has been established between the Board of Education, PSE Administration, Invaluable Staff, and Amazing Teachers; all of whom provide an excellent learning experience for our children. Back to school is an exciting time for students, staff and parents alike.

Many memorable experiences lie ahead, and we are all eager to get started. PTA gives parents an opportunity to be engaged in their child's school life. Research shows that in schools where parents are involved: students have a greater chance for success, higher test scores, more consistent attendance, and a greater involvement in their school's activities. As parents and guardians, it is important we show our children that we value education through our active involvement in their school. I encourage each of you to attend Board of Education meetings, PTA meetings, or Volunteer on one of our many PTA committees (trust me, you will be welcomed with open arms!).

Last, and very important to me, I would like to give a "shout out" to all the current PSE PTA Board Members.... I thank you for making my job less stressful. I thank you for caring not just about your child, but everyone else's children too. I thank you for all the hours you invest, and all the brilliant ideas y'all come up with. Most of all, I thank you for your endless support and generosity.

Let's make this a great year!!!

**Michelle Kidd**  
[PSEpres@gmail.com](mailto:PSEpres@gmail.com)



## Yearbook Photos Needed

Welcome back to school PSE Rockets! We would love your First Day of School photos to include in the yearbook!!!

Please share your photos at [PSEYearbookPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:PSEYearbookPhoto@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Larissa Peach at [larissapeach@yahoo.com](mailto:larissapeach@yahoo.com), Meghan Swedberg at [Meghan.swedberg@gmail.com](mailto:Meghan.swedberg@gmail.com) or Shawna Miller at [shawnamiller09@gmail.com](mailto:shawnamiller09@gmail.com).

Thank you!

**Read about our new faculty & staff members beginning on [page 7](#).**

## Make the Most of Your PSE PTA Donation

In the 2017-2018 school year, the PSE PTA received almost \$120,000 in donations during the Rocket Fuel campaign (Boosterthon) and through capital donations and matching programs. WOW! The amazing generosity of our families helped us to purchase many needed items for the school which have enhanced the learning experiences of your children, as well as the desired shade for our playgrounds.

While we will not be participating in Boosterthon for the 2018-2019 school year, PSE still needs your support to continue to fund the growing needs of our school, as well as purchase educational materials and technology. Please consider making a tax-exempt donation to the PSE PTA to continue to fund these needs.

Many corporations offer corporate matching programs that will match employee donations to qualifying nonprofit organizations, such as our PTA. These donations largely go untapped, when they are easy to access. Almost 65% of Fortune 500 companies offer this program, and the PSE PTA has received matches from companies such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Duke Energy and TIAA-CREF in the past, to name a few.

The process is simple. If you have made a donation to the PSE PTA, check your employer's Human Resources department to see if they offer gift matching. If your employer does offer gift matching, your HR department should provide you with a matching gift form to complete online or to give to PSE PTA. Some companies even provide payroll deduction services which they match dollar for dollar.

Your company may require proof of PSE PTA's tax deductible status. We are part of a tax exempt group, North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., and can forward a copy of our 501(c)(3) letter to your employer if they require it. Please contact Peggy Conerly at [psetreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:psetreasurer@gmail.com) if your employer requires this information.

Your children will thank you for enriching their learning experiences!

**Providence Spring Elementary PTA**  
**10045 Providence Church Lane**  
**Charlotte, NC 28277**  
**980-343-6935**  
**Tax ID # 01-0598296**

## Help Metro School, Our CMS School Mate



PSE has the privilege of being the "sister school" to Metro School, which is located uptown. The school serves approximately 250 students, ages 3 to 22, with significant disabilities. Many of the school's students have severe medical and physical needs, are in need of total physical care and assistance, and have other disabilities such as visual impairments, hearing impairments, and autism, in addition to their cognitive challenges.

We are honored to once again have the opportunity this year to be a part of their school community!

Metro School is in need of **NEW, UNUSED batteries, in sizes AA, AAA, and C, along with 9 volt**. There is a bin located in the front hall right as you walk in the main doors where you or your student can drop off battery packs **between Monday, August 27 and Friday, September 14**.

Questions? Email ([juliaheinzerling@gmail.com](mailto:juliaheinzerling@gmail.com)).

Thanks to everyone who donated their gently used school supplies back in June! We were able not only to help our Metro School friends, but had enough to give to Classroom Central as well! I'm looking forward to seeing how our school's generosity can tangibly help our community this year. THANK YOU for being willing to reach out to others in need.

– Julia Heinzerling, PSE PTA Vice President, Outreach

## Sign Up for the PSE Directory

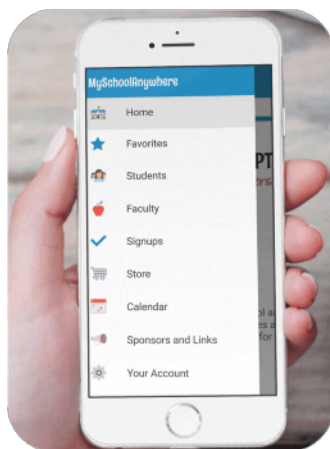
The PSE Directory is now online with  
[MySchoolAnywhere.com!](http://MySchoolAnywhere.com)



View the PSE Directory from your computer or mobile device – there's a free app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#). Just \$2/family gives you access to the latest student and faculty contact information, class rosters and more.

### Features

- Easy to search by student, parent, family, and faculty
- Tap to call, text and email from the mobile app
- Keep your family's information updated throughout the year
- Control what information is shared in the directory
- Your data is secured using SSL encryption, password protection, and access controls (access can only be granted to PSE families & faculty)
- Includes up to 4 access accounts per family



### Help make our directory complete and add your info today!

#### STEP 1 – Provide Info

Whether or not you decide to purchase access to view the directory, you can add your family's information to help us keep the directory current and accurate:

1. Go to [join.myschoolanywhere.com](http://join.myschoolanywhere.com)
2. Enter our code: **psepta**
3. Follow the screen prompts to securely enter or confirm your family's information. We will be notified of your entry. Once we confirm that you're a PSE family, we'll accept your info into the directory and email instructions for creating your password-protected account(s). You do not have to purchase access in order to be included, but you won't be able to view the full directory unless you've purchased access.

#### STEP 2 - Purchase Access (optional, but recommended!)

1. Purchase the Directory item on [Pay4SchoolStuff.com](http://Pay4SchoolStuff.com) (under Back to School Forms, Fees & Purchases).

Remember: Just \$2 for the whole family (includes up to 4 individual accounts).

Don't forget to download the mobile app.

2. Within 48 hours of receiving your order, we'll activate your access so you can view the entire directory.

Questions? Contact Genie Ombach ([gombach@gmail.com](mailto:gombach@gmail.com)).

## Link Your VIC Card

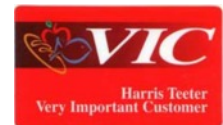
It's time to ReLink! Each year you must relink your Harris Teeter VIC Card to the school(s) you would like to support.

When you purchase Harris Teeter brand items they will donate a portion of your purchase to Providence Spring Elementary. This a free fundraiser and a terrific way to support PSE.

You can link your VIC card through your cashier at checkout by giving them our school name or number – 4927. You can also relink online: [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com).

\*\*Please consider supporting our sister school, the Metro School, which serves students with disabilities. Simply link your VIC card to Metro School – 3024 – along with PSE – 4927.

Questions? Contact Meghan at [meghan.swedberg@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.swedberg@gmail.com)







## School Store News

Starting on Sept. 24, the school store will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7:30 AM to 7:55 AM. Looking to volunteer? contact Maggie at [mwjamison@gmail.com](mailto:mwjamison@gmail.com)



## PSE's Guide to Online Resources

<b>PSE Info</b>	<b>PSE School Website</b>	<a href="http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/providencespringES">http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/providencespringES</a>	PSE's main school website. Use this site to find information about upcoming events and links to various resources, like the grade-level websites, assignments, Paideia info, etc.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!
<b>PTA Info</b>	<b>PSE PTA Website</b>	<a href="http://providencespringpta.weebly.com">http://providencespringpta.weebly.com</a>	The PSE PTA's website. Use this site to find PTA-related information about upcoming events, volunteering, Pay4SchoolStuff, the <i>Rocket Review</i> , PTA board contact info, etc.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!
<b>PTA Payments</b>	<b>Pay4 SchoolStuff</b> 	<a href="https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com">https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com</a>	The PSE PTA's online payment system. Use this site to buy anything that the PTA sells: required fees, tickets to events, Spirit Wear, Rocket Raffle, Yearbook, Publications, etc.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!
<b>Spirit Wear</b>	<b>PSE Spirit Wear Store</b>	<a href="https://providencespring.itemorder.com">https://providencespring.itemorder.com</a>	The PSE PTA's online store for spirit wear purchases. Use this site to order PSE-branded products.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!
<b>Student Directory</b>	<b>MySchool Anywhere</b> 	<a href="https://www.myschoolanywhere.com">https://www.myschoolanywhere.com</a>	The PSE PTA's new online directory. Use this site or the mobile app for the latest contact info for students and faculty, class rosters, etc.	<b>Cost:</b> \$2/family
<b>Cafeteria Payments</b>	<b>PayPAMS</b> 	<a href="https://paypams.com">https://paypams.com</a>	CMS's online school lunch payment system. Use this site to manage your child's school lunch account: add money, set up alerts, monitor lunch spending, etc.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!
<b>Field Trip Payments</b>	<b>OSP</b> 	<a href="http://osp.osmsi.nc.com/cms">http://osp.osmsi.nc.com/cms</a>	CMS's online payment system. Use this site to pay for school field trips. All field trip payments must be made through OSP to eliminate cash/checks in the classroom and loss of instructional time due to cash/check processing.	<b>Cost:</b> 4% of the transaction amount
<b>Grades</b>	<b>Power School</b>	<a href="https://cms.powerschool.com/public">https://cms.powerschool.com/public</a>	CMS's online record for grades. Use this site or the mobile app to check grades, attendance reports, etc. Grades are tracked starting in third grade.	<b>Cost:</b> Free!

Visit the PSE PTA website for upcoming events, how to get involved, PTA meeting minutes, a digital edition of this newsletter – and much more!

<http://providencespringpta.weebly.com>

## Proposed PTA Budget

### PSE PTA Proposed Budget 2018-2019

This proposed PSE PTA budget for the 2018-2019 school year was presented for approval by vote during the General PTA Meeting held on August 22nd. Please take a few moments to review this information. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Conerly, PTA Treasurer, at psetreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the PSE PTA!

Income		Expenses (continued)	
Beautification	1,500	Go Play Save Expense	7,500
Book Fair	20,000	Membership Expense	100
Book Swap Income	500		
Brick Campaign	500	<b>PTA-PSE Educational Expenses</b>	
Capital Donations	11,500	Art Appreciation	300
Directory	600	Beautification and Grounds	3,500
Family Dinner/Ice Cream Social		Character Education	350
Family Night Dinner	2,700	Classroom Grants	11,000
Ice Cream Social	1,000	Cultural Arts	8,800
<b>Total Family Dinner/Ice Cream Social</b>	<b>3,700</b>	Field Days	5,500
		Fifth Grade Awards	250
Field Days Income	5,500	Fifth Grade Celebration	1,500
Fifth Grade T-Shirt Income	1,500	Fifth Grade T-Shirt Expense	1,500
Food Fundraisers	3,000	Health Room	250
Free Fundraisers	4,000	Historian	150
Gallery Walk Income	8,100	Hospitality & Staff Recognition	5,000
Go Play Save Income	15,000	Principal Discretionary	5,000
Interest Income	50	Professional Development	7,500
Membership (Local Only*)	1,400	Publications Expense	13,950
Publications Income	14,000	Reflections	350
Rocket Art	4,000	Scholarships	1,000
Rocket Raffle	13,000	School Security Expense	1,000
Sales Tax Refund	5,000	Staff Field Trips	450
School Store	1,500	Tech and Ed Fund	4,000
School Supplies	9,500	<b>Total PTA-PSE Educational Expense</b>	<b>71,350</b>
Spirit Wear	10,000		
Sponsorship	5,000	<b>PTA Operational Expenses</b>	
Spring Carnival	500	Accounting Fees	500
Yearbook	11,000	Bank Fees	4,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>150,350</b>	Copying and Laminating	750
		Discretionary - Administrative	5,000
<b>Expenses</b>		Insurance	600
Book Fair Expense	7,000	PTA Dues	75
Book Swap Expense	100	<b>Total PTA Operational Expenses</b>	<b>11,125</b>
Brick Campaign Expense	350		
Directory Expense	500	Rocket Raffle Expense	13,000
FND/Ice Cream Social Expense		School Store Expense	1,200
Family Night Dinner Expense	2,000	School Supplies Expense	5,500
Ice Cream Social Expense	1,000	Spirit Wear Expense	8,500
<b>Total FND/Ice Cream Social Expense</b>	<b>3,000</b>	Spring Carnival Expense	7,500
		Yearbook Expense	11,000
Food Fundraisers Expense	100	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>150,350</b>
Free Fundraisers Expense	25		
Gallery Walk Expense	2,500	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Membership income excludes projected dues collected and paid to the State and National PTA of approximately 3,000 and County dues of \$75.

## Meet Our New Staff, Faculty

### Traci Rider, Dean of Instruction

Welcome back PSE Family! My name is Traci Rider, although many of you already know that! This year, I am excited to be in a new role at Providence Spring as Dean of Instruction.

My educational journey began in 1993 as a high school English teacher and then moved into the position of Media Specialist after completing a Masters in Education at Winthrop University. Reading is foundational to who I am and I have loved working with students in this area; however, it was time for a new challenge.

During the summer of 2017, I entered the SELA (School Executive Leadership Academy) at Queens University. After 14 long months (and with much support from my PSE family), I completed my coursework and am now a licensed administrator. I look forward to serving students, parents and staff in this new role. Here's to an amazing 2018-19 school year!



### Aml Lohavichan, School Psychologist



My name is Aml Lohavichan and I'm excited to join the team at Providence Spring as your school psychologist. I grew up in Winston-Salem, NC and attended University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Health Policy and Administration. GO HEELS! After college, I worked in corporate America for several years before deciding to transition careers. I completed my Masters of Science and Specialist degrees in School Psychology at Winthrop University in 2007. I'm a Nationally Certified School Psychologist as just completed the requirements to be a NC DPI Approved Provider for TBI Psychological services.

In addition to serving Providence Spring, I'm also at Montclair Elementary and eLearning Academy. I'll be at PSE three days a week. This is my fifth year in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, prior to that I worked in Union County. I love my job because I am able to work so closely with parents, teachers, students and other professionals every day! As a school psychologist, I wear many hats and no two days are ever the same.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. I have three children who keep me busy and I enjoy attending all their sporting activities.

I look forward to meeting you all and joining the team at PSE!

## Ice Cream Social

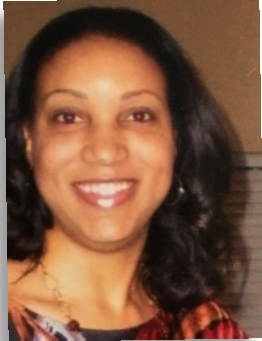
Please come enjoy a sweet treat to celebrate the new school year with your neighbors across the street at Providence Presbyterian Church. We'll have make-your-own sundaes and fun outdoor games for the kids. This is a neighborhood event so please join us anytime between 2 PM and 3:30 PM on Saturday, Sept. 8!



Continued on [next page](#)

Continued from [last page](#)

## **Marilynn Chapman Keys, School Counselor**



Hello Providence Spring! My name is Marilynn Chapman Keys and I'm excited to be joining the PSE family as a School Counselor. I grew up in eastern North Carolina about an hour from the coast. I relocated to Charlotte in 2011 after working as an elementary school counselor and licensed professional counselor in private practice in Greenville, NC. I have spent the past 12 years in CMS as a high school counselor and learning community coach.

I graduated from UNC-Greensboro with a BS in Elementary Education and from East Carolina University with a MS in Counselor Education. I am a proud NC Teaching Fellow Alum and a National Board Certified Teacher in School Counseling.

My husband, Edward, and I have three wonderful children. When away from work, I enjoy reading, traveling and spending time with family. At the age of 18, I decided to pursue school counseling as a career and I have truly enjoyed the journey! I'm excited to return to my roots as an elementary school counselor and I look forward to meeting my PSE students and families!

## **Lisa Fedell, ESL**

Hello Providence Spring Elementary! My name is Lisa Fedell and I am excited to be your ESL teacher this year!



I began my teaching career 11 years ago and have taught second and third grade, and for the past 4 years, I was a K-5 literacy facilitator. I am a Charlotte native and grew up on Lake Wylie, and graduated from Olympic High School. After that, I attended East Carolina University for my undergrad and Wingate University for my masters.

Through my teaching career, I have worked with many different students and adults. I have even

worked with teachers and students in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. You don't know what you have, until you see what they don't have! That place holds a special place in my heart! I am eager to work with our ESL students this year. My time will be split at PSE. I will be at Community House Middle on "A" days and PSE on "B" days.

Along with my passion for teaching and learning, I love to Crossfit. My husband and I live in the Ballantyne area and during our free time we love to workout, hike, be with our two dogs, and cook. I feel honored to be a part of the PSE family and looking forward to working with you all and meeting the students and families!

## **Rachel Scripture, Kindergarten**



Hello PSE families! My name is Rachel Scripture and I am thrilled to be joining the Kindergarten team as a teacher this year! I have been a PSE Rocket since February 2017 as a teacher assistant. I cannot begin to express my excitement for my new role!

Prior to starting my journey at PSE, I taught Transitional Kindergarten at a preschool for several years after I graduated in 2012 with a BA in both Elementary Education and Mathematics.

Born and raised in New Jersey, I moved to Charlotte after graduating from Rowan University. North Carolina has been a wonderful change of pace and I look forward to many years to come here!

In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors with my dog, whether biking, hiking, or kayaking! I love to travel and explore all the beautiful wonders this world has to see, as well as bake and craft! I am the proud aunt to my 5 year-old niece and enjoy spending as much time with her as possible.

It is such a privilege to be a part of such a phenomenal school community here at PSE and I cannot wait to start another year with everyone!

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## Leslie Gassler, Kindergarten



Hello Providence Spring Elementary! My name is Leslie Gassler and I am excited to join the PSE kindergarten team this year! I began my teaching career

almost 20 years ago as a kindergarten teacher, and am overjoyed to be returning to a grade level full of enthusiasm, curiosity, and growth.

I grew up in southern New Jersey, but am proud to say I was born in Charlotte and spent the first two weeks of my life here before my family was relocated north. I graduated from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and elementary education and a master's degree in elementary education. As an undergraduate student, I studied and taught in London, England. During my time away from the classroom, I completed my doctorate degree in educational leadership and continued to volunteer in the classroom while living abroad with my husband and children in Stockholm, Sweden, and locally at my children's schools in Chadds Ford, PA, and Charlotte.

Along with my passion for teaching, I enjoy spending time exploring Charlotte with my husband and three children, all proud PSE Rockets! Ben, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and Emma, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, remind me daily how much I love teaching no matter what we are doing... cooking, gardening, traveling, you name it! Along with spending time with family, I always enjoy a good book, outdoor activities, and visiting family and friends both near and far.

I am honored to be part of the PSE school community, and look forward to meeting the new Kindergarten students and families!

## Jennifer Witt, Kindergarten

I am Jennifer Witt and I am so excited to be part of the Providence Spring family teaching Kindergarten! I spent 19 years teaching Kindergarten, First Grade, and Third Grade. I attended California State University, Fullerton where I received both Bachelor and Master degrees, along with a Reading Specialist Credential. I love teaching children to read and watching them grow.



I was born and raised in sunny Southern California. My husband accepted a job in Charlotte, which is what brought us here. We have only been here since June, but are loving it so far! My husband and I just celebrated our 14th anniversary and have 3 children, Payton, Preston, and Pierson. Our family also includes 2 very spoiled dogs, Mason and Austin. In my spare time I enjoy traveling, baking, crafting, shopping, and country music. I have traveled mostly on the West Coast, but am looking forward to exploring the East Coast. I'm looking forward to seeing all 4 seasons here in North Carolina.

I am honored to be called a Rocket and excited to meet my students and their families!

## Rachel Friel, First Grade



Hey there! My name is Rachel Friel and I am so excited to be teaching First Grade at Providence Spring. Growing up in the Charlotte area, I was lucky enough to attend PSE as a student the first year it opened. My time spent at Providence Spring was unforgettable and for that reason I am honored to return as a teacher to such a wonderful

Continued on [next page](#)

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community of students, staff, and families.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from North Carolina State University. During my time at NC State I was able to student teach in Raleigh, NC as well as abroad at an international boarding school in Beijing, China. After graduation, I began teaching in Columbus, Ohio before returning to Charlotte this summer. Through my experiences in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools, I began to develop a great love for learning which turned into a passion for teaching. As a teacher at Providence Spring, I strive to instill this same love for learning in each of my students.

In addition to teaching, I love to read, paint, and be active! Some of my favorite activities include riding bikes, Crossfit, and playing with my dog Leia.

### **Valorie Slate, First Grade**

Hello PSE! My name is Valorie Slate and I am very excited to be a part of the Providence Spring team! I am originally from Central New York but have been in the Charlotte area for just over 20 years. My teaching career began in Fairfax, Virginia where I taught in the Exceptional Children's program for 2 years. After getting married, my husband and I decided to make the move to Charlotte and we fell in love with the people, weather and the ease of visiting the beaches or mountains.

During my twenty year teaching career I have worked in many different roles from K-2 classroom teacher to curriculum support and most recently as an instructional coach. My teaching began in NC at Mallard Creek Elementary. We moved to Union County two years later and I have taught there for the past 18 years. I am beyond excited to work in the classroom teaching students and getting to know this wonderful community.

When I am not teaching, you can find me at home relaxing with my husband and two



daughters. We love spending time outdoors, swimming, biking or having fun at the beach with friends. We also love visiting family in Florida and New York.

I am looking forward to a terrific year and cannot wait to meet all the students and families and the entire Providence Spring community!

### **Robin Ebert, Fourth Grade**

Hello PSE family! My name is Robin Ebert and I am so excited to be joining the PSE family. I was born and raised in Williamsburg, Virginia, attended East Carolina University and Christopher Newport University where I was a cheerleader and interim cheerleading coach, and hold a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I taught first grade for two years in New Kent County, Virginia and was the junior varsity cheerleading coach at New Kent High School. I met my husband, Andy, a Navy man, in Virginia when he was stationed in Norfolk on the aircraft carrier George Washington. I moved to Charlotte, Andy's hometown, in 1994 and we were married in 1995 in Williamsburg.



Andy and I have two girls, Samantha and Kristin. Samantha is a senior at Ardrey Kell High School and Kristin is a sophomore. We also have a ten year old black lab named Riley who is still all puppy! I taught kindergarten at Rama Road Elementary from 1995 until December 2000 when Samantha was born and then was at home with my girls for ten years. In 2011, I rejoined CMS and the Elizabeth Lane Elementary family where I have been teaching for the past seven years, five of which were in kindergarten and two in fourth grade.

When I'm not teaching, you can find me: at our second home in Valle Crucis enjoying the view or attending an ASU football game, attending Panther games and cheering until I'm hoarse, being a dance mom (Kristin dances competitively), reading on the beach on Bald Head Island, shopping, or creating a wreath for the front door. I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Continued on [next page](#)

Continued from [last page](#)

## Joni Strama, Interventionist



Joni Strama is a familiar face at PSE. She has been teaching for 24 years in grades 2nd through 6th. Her expertise is working with students with special needs. She holds a Master's degree in Special Education concentrating in Learning Disabilities. She is coming back to elementary after teaching 3 years at the middle school level.

In her spare time she loves traveling... particularly to the beach. One of her favorite activities is kayaking!

This year Ms. Strama will be concentrating her efforts supporting students, staff, and our PSE community.

## Karen Barnash, EC Assistant

Hello PSE! My name is Karen Barnash and I am so excited to officially be joining the PSE family as one of the EC Assistants! Prior to moving to Charlotte I spent 12 years working at DreamWorks Animation. I was a Supervisor on movies including How To Train Your Dragon and the Croods and finished off my career as a Department Manager, managing the Character FX and Rigging Departments. I loved my artists and being part of the movie magic, but found myself struggling to maintain a work/life balance. So I left DreamWorks, and we packed up and moved across the country to Charlotte for a change of lifestyle.

My 2 kids quickly fell in love with PSE and we've slowly built a new home here in Charlotte. I spent the past couple of years volunteering on the PTA, helping run the Gallery Walk and Rocket Art fundraisers, designing bulletin-boards and helping out wherever needed. Last year I also worked as a substitute and took over the Character Ed program.

My daughter, Alyssa, graduated from PSE and is now a 7th grader at Randolph Middle School. My son, Bobby, is excited to start his 4th year as a Rocket and is entering 3rd grade. When not at PSE you can find me out walking our puppy, Bailey, building new cabinets or other home improvement projects in my garage, or partnering with my daughter to make homemade cakes and other baked goods for one of her many bake sales. My husband and I are both Southern California natives so we have been enjoying exploring the East Coast and are always looking for recommendations on new places to hike, camp or just visit.

I look forward to meeting all the new students and staff and continuing to help PSE be the amazing school it is.



## Did you know?



The **K-8 school lunch menu** is available on the CMS website.

The menus are updated monthly, so bookmark this link to always have access to the latest!

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/CMSDEPARTMENT/S/CNS/Pages/MenuCarbsAllergens.aspx>



## 2018-2019 PSE PTA Calendar

### August

- 22 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
- 24 Meet the Teacher  
(K-2) 9:00-10:30 am  
(3-5) 11:00-12:30 pm  
Go/Play/Save Begins
- 27 First Day of School  
Metro School Drive Begins
- \*Rocket Review: 8/24*

### September

- 3 No School – Labor Day
- 5 General PTA Meeting 9:30 am
- 6 Open House K-2 6:30 pm
- 12 Early Release Day
- 13 Open House 3-5 6:30 pm
- 14 Movie Night at Promenade  
Metro School Drive Ends  
Parent Packs Due
- 18 New Parent Coffee 9:30 am
- 19 No School-Teacher Work Day
- 24 Go/Play/Save Ends
- \*Rocket Review: 9/28*

### October

- 1-2 Fall Pictures
- 3 PTA Meeting 9:30
- 5 Family Fun Run
- 10-17 Book Fair Preview
- 18-25 Book Fair Sales
- 25 Family Night Dinner 6-7:30 pm
- 30 End of Quarter
- 31 No School- Teacher Work Day
- \*Rocket Review: 10/26*

### November

- 3 Fall Carnival
- 5 Coat Drive begins
- 6 Kids voting  
Rock Art Info goes home
- 7 PTA Meeting 9:30 am
- 8 PTA Reflections deadline
- 12 No School-Veteran's Day
- 19 Rocket Art orders due
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
- \*Rocket Review: 11/30*

### December

- 5 PTA Meeting 9:30 am  
Early Release Day
- 12 Staff Cookie Exchange
- 13 Metro School Lunch
- 19-1/3 Winter Break
- \*Rocket Review: 12/14*

### January

- 9 PTA Meeting 9:30 am  
Early Release Day
- 14 Rocket Raffle begins
- 18 End of Quarter
- 21 No School-MLK Day
- 22 No School-Teacher Workday
- 30 Rocket Raffle ends
- \*Rocket Review: 1/25*

### February

- 6 General PTA Meeting 9:30 am
- 8 Loaves & Fishes drive begins
- 15 Loaves & Fishes drive ends
- 18 No School-Teacher Workday
- 21 Club Picture Day
- 25-3/1 Staff Appreciation Week
- \*Rocket Review: 2/22*

### March

- 6 PTA Meeting 9:30 am
- 6-13 Book Fair Preview
- 11-15 Spirit Week
- 13 Early Release Day
- 14-21 Book Fair Sales
- 21 Ice Cream Social 6-7:30 pm
- 28 End of Quarter
- 29 No School-Teacher Workday
- \*Rocket Review: 3/22*

### April

- 3 PTA Meeting 9:30 am
- 3-5 Williamsburg Trip (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 8-9 Spring Pictures
- 15-19 Spring Break
- \*Rocket Review: 4/26*

### May

- 1 PTA Transitional Brunch 9:30 am  
Gallery Walk 6-7:30 pm
- 8 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Day
- 9 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day
- 10 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day
- 16 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Day (AM)  
Kindergarten Field Day (PM)
- 17 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Field Day (AM)
- 27 No School – Memorial Day
- 31 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration
- \*Rocket Review: 5/31*

### June

- 3 Celebration of Nations
- 4 Drama Club Play
- 7 Last Day of School  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Assembly



*\* The deadline to submit articles to the Rocket Review is 5 PM the Monday before the date of publication.*



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