

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

Fall Edition
October 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Preschool Pumpkin Visit



One of the major fundraisers for the youth ministry of Lakeside United Methodist Church is their annual pumpkin sale. This year, they are inviting preschools to visit their "Pumpkin Patch" for pumpkin picking, a story, special snack and a fun morning.

Grace Covenant Community School will be traveling to Lakeside on Wednesday, October 15. Everyone is invited to join us. The cost will be \$3.50 for a child-sized pumpkin, treat and story. A multitude of pumpkins in various sizes will be available for additional purchase.

Halloween Folklore

Trick or Treat, or going from house to house to ask for gifts, was said to have originated in England, where peasant children, dressed in rags like prisoners, would beg for coins or treats as a token of remembrance of a man, Guy Fawkes, who was drawn and quartered after attempting to blow up the British government offices. However, Halloween did not become an American "Hallmark Holiday" until the 20th century. It evolved from children going next door for a treat to parents driving around carloads of children looking for choice neighborhoods to "get loot." Home-made costumes gave way to boxed sets with masks and accessories. Nowadays, costumes of the latest super heroes or horror figures are on the shelves in August, a far cry from the rag costumes of old.

The Jack O' Lantern was adapted from the old Irish practice of carving out turnips or other vegetables to make lanterns. Pumpkin carving remains one of the main attractions at any Halloween gathering.

Preschool & Afterschool Fundraising



We would like to begin fundraising to support our scholarship

fund. If you have any suggestions or would like to work on a fundraising group, please contact Linda Willis.

Also, if you have contacts within any local/community businesses or organizations that may be interested in funding full or partial scholarships, please contact Ms. Willis .

In this issue:

Preschool Pumpkin Visit 1

Halloween Folklore 1

Preschool & Afterschool Fundraising 1

Preschool Tidbits 2

Fun Stuff for Kids and Parents 2

Afterschool Info 2

Fall Pumpkin Recipes 3

Foreign Language Curriculum 3

School Compliance 4

Preschool Tidbits

Supplies

Each family will need to provide the following supplies for their preschooler by Sept. 12:

- 2 bottles liquid hand soap
- 2 packs baby wipes
- 2 boxes tissues
- 2 rolls paper towels
- 2 boxes 5 oz. paper cups
- One full change of clothing, in a bag, with each piece labeled with child's name

Preschool Reminder: No school on Oct. 9 & 10

Preschool Curriculum for October

- Community Helpers
- Fall is here!
- Pumpkins
- Nursery Rhymes/Fairy Tales
- Letters "B" and "C"



REMINDER: All payments should be made by check or money order payable to Grace Covenant Community Ministries and mailed to Post Office Box 9617, Richmond, VA 23227

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS AND PARENTS:

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/library>—Information on Henrico County Public Libraries. Click on "Events Calendar" to find out about upcoming special events

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/rec/> - Information on Henrico County Parks and Recreation activities and programs, including at Meadow Farm, Laurel Skate Park and more

<http://www.lewisginter.org/children/index.php>—Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden information, including details on the Children's Garden.

Afterschool Info

Remember to Pack:

Please remind your child(ren) to pack a sharpened pencil in their backpack each day for homework. We are also trying to stress the importance of improving reading skills by asking that each child keep a book or magazine in their backpack to read during our "quiet times."

Free Week of Afterschool Care

We would like to add a few more children to our afterschool program. If you recommend a child or children to our program and they enroll and attend, you will receive one free week of afterschool care (limit one free week per family).

School Attendance Info

If your child stays at home due to illness or is picked up early from school, please call us to let us know so that we are aware and don't wait for him/her at school pickup.

Games

If you or your family have any card or board games that are brand new or in very gently used condition (i.e. not missing any pieces) that you would like to donate to Grace Covenant Community School's afterschool program, please feel free to drop them off when picking up your child.



Fall Pumpkin Recipes

Easy Pumpkin Pudding

This is a delicious recipe that will allow your child(ren) to get involved and help with the preparation, as well as enjoy the end result!

*helps children with measuring as they cook up this Autumn treat

Materials and Ingredients:

- 1 cup vanilla pudding for each child
- 2 tsp. Libby's easy pumpkin pie mix per child
- A bowl for each child
- A spoon for each child

Help young children measure and place one cup of vanilla pudding in their individual bowls. Next, measure out 2 tsp. pie mix with each child. Ask children to mix the vanilla pudding and pie mix together for a seasonal and yummy treat.

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Makes 6-8 servings

- 2 cups yellow cake mix
- 1 can (1 lb.) pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Topping:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large bowl, combine dry cake mix, pumpkin, brown sugar, oil, eggs, nuts and pumpkin pie spice. Blend at low speed until completely moistened, about 1 minute. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed. Spread batter in greased & floured 13"x9"x2" pan. In a medium bowl, combine the sugar, flour, softened butter and cinnamon with a fork or pastry blender. (Mixture will be crumbly.) Sprinkle evenly over batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes, until center springs back when touched lightly.



Yummy Pumpkin Dip

- 2 8-oz. packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 lg. 30-oz. can of pumpkin
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. ginger

Whip together and serve in hollowed-out small pumpkin. Serve on a plate covered with black licorice "worms" or any Halloweenish candy such as candy corn. On the side, place ginger snaps for dipping.



Foreign Language Curriculum

Grace Covenant Community School is currently working to develop a foreign language curriculum for our preschoolers. Studies have shown that young children who learn a foreign language receive numerous benefits, including:

- When children learn multiple languages at a young age, they develop a lifelong love of communicating with others.
- By incorporating foreign languages into the curriculum, children develop a greater appreciation for diversity.

- When young children learn about the structure of other languages, their ability in English is enhanced.
- Because the brain automatically compartmentalizes each language correctly, young children have the ability to learn many languages without getting them confused.
- When children learn a second language at an early age, they will achieve a more native grasp of both grammar and pronunciation in the second language.

Additionally, studies have shown and experience has supported the fact that children who learn a foreign language before adolescence are far more likely to reach near-native level ability in the language than those who begin learning a language later.

Initially, we will be focusing on Spanish and .

French, however we hope to broaden this to include other languages as we move forward

Our curriculum will use the Muzzy series of videos/dvd's (www.early-advantage.com). In addition, we'll have lessons facilitated by instructors fluent in Spanish and French.

We'd love your feedback on this new program! If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact Linda Willis. In addition, we'd also like to know the different languages spoken by our preschoolers and their families. If your child and/or your family speak a language other than English, please let Linda Willis know so that we can include your family's language in our foreign language studies.

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We're on the web! Visit
www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org
for pictures, information and email access.

School Compliance



If you would like to determine whether your child's preschool or child care program has met the requirements of the Virginia Department of Social Services, visit their website at www.dss.virginia.gov, select "Children," and then choose either "Licensed" or "Religiously-Exempt" facility. You can also read detailed information about these two types of programs, as well as information on criminal

background checks, staff health reports, fire marshal inspection information, health inspections and more.

Grace Covenant Community School is proud to say that we opened on Sept. 2 fully compliant with VDSS requirements. It is important to know that the persons responsible for your child's care are registered with VDSS.