

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

Thanksgiving Edition
November 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

Turkey Day Food Collection



Grace Covenant Community School will be collecting canned and non-perishable food items to donate to Lamb's Basket, an organization which provides food to needy families in Henrico County. The work they do is supported by donations and grants from individuals, churches and other community organizations. They are always in need of volunteers to work on site. If you are interested in finding out more about Lamb's Basket, or in volunteering, contact them at 804-565-8007.

Thanksgiving History

Many people think that the first Thanksgiving occurred in Plymouth, Massachusetts. But Virginia can lay claim to some Thanksgiving history too!

The first Thanksgiving occurred when Captain John Woodlief led the newly-arrived English colonists to a grassy slope along the James River and instructed them to drop to their knees and pray in thanks for a safe arrival to the New World. It was December 4, 1619, and 38 men from Berkeley Parish in England vowed:

"Wee ordaine that the day of our ships arrivall at the place assigned for plantacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God."

Grace Covenant Parents' Day—Dec. 6



Need to get some holiday shopping done? On Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 AM to 3 PM, you can drop off your child(ren) for \$25 per child. Please supply a

lunch and a drink. All are welcome, so if you know of anyone else who may not attend Grace Covenant, but who is interested in Parents' Day, please have them contact Linda Willis at 804-262-9023. We must have a minimum of 8 children, and registration and nonrefundable

payment must be made by Nov. 26.

This event is a fundraiser for Grace Covenant Community School.

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Preschool Tidbits

Annual Preschool Christmas Program

Grace Covenant Community School will hold its annual preschool Christmas program on Saturday, December 20, 2008 at 6:30 PM. The program will take place in the sanctuary at First Mennonite Church. Family, friends and neighbors are all invited to attend, as our 3 and 4-year old classes perform holiday songs for all. A reception will follow the program.

Coffee and Fellowship

Don't forget to join the preschool and afterschool parents for coffee and fellowship at First Mennonite Church on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 AM.

Preschool Calendar Reminders

- *Tuesday, Nov. 11—Preschool Early Dismissal at 10:45 AM
- *Wednesday, Nov. 26—Preschool Early Dismissal at 10:45 AM
- *Thursday, Dec. 4—Preschool photos will be taken by Howl Dog Photography

Cold Weather Ahead

Don't forget—the weather is getting colder. Please be sure to dress your little one in long sleeves and long pants, and make sure they have a winter coat with hood or a warm hat and gloves in their bag. Also, remember to mark all items with your child's name.

STORYTIME VISITS:

Preschool classes will be visiting the North Park library for storytime on Friday, Nov. 14 at 10 AM.

Afterschool children will be visiting the North Park library for an arts and crafts project on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 3:30 PM.



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

Afterschool Info

Don't Forget:

- Half-day on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Please send a lunch with drink.
- Half-day on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Please send a lunch with drink

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.

Fun Stuff

- On Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 PM, the North Park library will be showing the animated Disney tale, "Pocahontas."
- The Christmas Mother Book Drive will be held Nov. 3-28. New and gently used teen's and children's books are needed.



Thanksgiving Recipes to Try

Garlic Butter Green Beans

Ingredients

- 1 pound fresh green beans
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

Place beans in a steamer basket; place in a large saucepan over 1 in. of water. Bring to a boil; cover and steam for 7-9 minutes or until crisp-tender. Meanwhile, in a small nonstick saucepan, cook garlic in butter until tender. Remove from the heat; stir in the lemon juice, sugar and pepper.

Transfer the beans to a serving bowl; add garlic butter and stir to coat.

Southwestern Jalapeno Cornbread Dressing

Ingredients

- 4 Cups cornbread crumbled
- 10 Slices dried bread cubed
- 1 Pound MILD ITALIAN TURKEY SAUSAGE
- 1-1/2 Cups celery chopped
- 1 Cup onion chopped
- 1-1/2 Teaspoons salt
- 1 Teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1/4 Cup Jalapeno peppers seeded and chopped
- 2 eggs slightly beaten
- 1 Cup TURKEY BROTH

Directions

Preheat oven to 325.

In large bowl combine cornbread and bread cubes. In large skillet, over medium-high heat, saute sausage, celery and onion until sausage



is no longer pink and vegetables are tender; combine with cornbread mixture. Add salt, poultry seasoning, jalapeno peppers, eggs and turkey broth. Spoon dressing into lightly greased 3-quart casserole dish.

Bake, covered, at 325 degrees F. 45 to 50 minutes.lightly.

Community Holiday Events

The holidays are fast approaching, and the Richmond area is chock full of fun things to do as a family!

- Maymont Mansion Holiday Tours—Runs Friday, Nov. 21-Tuesday, Jan. 6. Tours every half-hour. Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. \$5 per person suggested donation. www.maymont.org
- GardenFest of Lights at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden—Runs Friday, Nov. 28-Monday, Jan. 5. Grand Illumination takes place Friday, Nov. 28 at 5:30 PM. \$10 per adult, \$6 per child. www.lewisginter.org
- Bizarre Bazaar's 33rd Christmas Celebration—Thursday, Dec. 4 - Saturday, Dec. 6 (10 AM-7 PM) and Sunday, Dec. 7 (10 AM-5 PM). \$7.50 per adult. Located at Richmond Raceway Complex.
- The Mountain Road Corridor Holiday Celebration—Saturday, Dec. 6. Courtney Rd. Service Station open Noon-2 PM. Open House at Walkerton Tavern 1-6 PM. Tree Lighting at the Cultural Arts Center of Glen Allen 4:30-5:45 PM. Lantern Tours at Meadow Farm Museum 6-8 PM. All events are free.
- Ornament-Making at Meadow Farm Museum—Sunday, Dec. 7. 1-3 PM. Make an ornament and listen to the 1840's Saint Nicholas read "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Free.
- Court End Christmas—Sunday, Dec. 14, Noon-5 PM. 10 historic downtown Richmond sites open their doors for free tours. Carriage rides, a visit from Snow Bear, caroling and refreshments can be enjoyed. Free for the whole family.
- Mechanicsville "Old Time" Christmas Parade—Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 PM. www.mechanicsvillerotary.org
- 25th Annual Ukrop's Christmas Parade—Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 AM. Runs from the Science Museum of Virginia to 7th Street. www.richmondchristmasparade.org



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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.