

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

St. Patrick's Edition
March 2009

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St. Patrick's Day Lore



According to Collin Owens, Irish literature expert and Professor Emeritus of English at George Mason University, Saint Patrick is traditionally thought to have lived "between 432-461 A.D., but more recent scholarship moves the dates up a bit." At the age of sixteen he was kidnapped from his native land of the Roman British Isles by a band of pirates, and sold into slavery in Ireland. Saint Patrick worked as a shepherd and turned to religion for solace. After six years of slavery he escaped to the Irish coast and fled home to Britain.

While back in his homeland, Patrick decided to become a priest and then decided to return to Ireland after dreaming that the voices of the Irish people were calling him to convert them to Christianity. Saint Patrick is also credited with bringing written word to Ireland through the promotion of the study of legal texts and the Bible, says Prof. Owens. Previous to Patrick, storytelling and history were reliant on memory and orally passing down stories.

Patrick's mission in Ireland is said to have lasted for thirty years. It is believed he died in the 5th century on March 17, which is the day St. Patrick's Day is commemorated each year.

Candle Sale Fundraiser

Grace Covenant Community School is currently holding a candle sale fundraiser through Terri Engels, an independent Mia Bella Candles representative. Mia Bella candles are made from natural vegetable waxes, which means they smell better and burn cleaner than other premium candle brands. For our fundraiser, we are offering 16 oz. jar candles for \$20 in a number of scents: Sweet Orange & Chili Pepper, Apple Cinnamon, Baby Powder, Coconuts & Lime, Cucumber Melon, Fresh Linen, Gardenia, Heart of the Ocean, Lavender and Peach & Papaya. We are also offering Soy Bella soap Bars for \$6 in Sweet Orange & Chili Pepper scent, as well as a Plug-In Style wax Melter for \$15 and Mia wax Melts for \$10 per pack (same scents as are available in candles). Payment is due at time of order. Please see Ms. Willis or Ms. Griner if you'd like a catalog and order form to take orders. Monies are due March 16, 2009 and checks should be made out to "Grace Covenant Community School."

Learning French



Bonjour! In case your preschooler hasn't started saying "merci" and "je m'appelle..." around the house yet, our preschool children are enjoying their French classes every other

week immensely! Heather McDonough, Killian's mom, is our volunteer French teacher, and she's been introducing our 3 and 4 year-olds to the French language through the Professor Toto video series (www.professortoto.com), songs, games and conversation. In March, Ms. McDonough will be coming in on the 12th and 26th to work with our preschoolers. We will be working with our preschoolers to learn the French

song "Frere Jacques" for our end-of-year celebration. If you'd like to help your child learn the words, they are:

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines, Sonnez les matines
Ding Ding Dong, Ding

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Preschool Tidbits

Curriculum Info

In March, we'll be talking about "Faces of the Journey to Easter" with our preschoolers.

Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of a volunteer to work in Ms. Griner's class. Please let Ms. Griner or Ms. Willis know if you're interested.

Don't Forget

On Wednesday, March 18, preschool will dismiss at 10:45 AM.

Coffee and Fellowship

Don't forget to join the preschool and afterschool parents for coffee and fellowship at First Mennonite Church on Tuesday, March 17 at 9:30 AM. All are invited!

Preschool Storytime

Our preschoolers will be attending the preschool storytime at North Park Library on Friday, March 27 at 10:30 AM.

Preschool Tuition

Preschool tuition for March is now due. Please make payments, via check or money order, out to "Grace Covenant Community Ministries" and drop off to Ms. Willis or Ms. Griner. You may also mail your payment to: Grace Covenant Community Ministries, P.O. Box 9617, Richmond, VA 23227

Donations Needed

We are in need of paper towels and paper cups for preschool. If you can bring a package or two, it would be greatly appreciated!



End of Year Celebration

Our End-of-Year/Preschool Graduation program will be held on Friday, May 29 at 6:30 PM. A reception will follow the program in the fellowship hall at First Mennonite.

Summer Program

Grace Covenant will be holding a summer program this year for ages 3 (early Head Start age) through rising 6th graders. Our summer program will offer trips to local pools, Three Lakes Park, movies at Regal Cinema, arts and crafts and much more! We will have a full-day option, Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and a half-day option.

Afterschool Info

Calendar Info

On Wednesday, March 18, afterschool children will be picked up and transported to Grace Covenant at the close of school (11:05 AM). All afterschool children will need to bring a lunch and a 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).



Afterschool Craft Program

On Thursday, March 12 at 3:30 PM, our afterschool children will be attending a craft program at North Park Library.

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.

Tuition Reminder

Weekly Afterschool tuition is always due on Monday of each week. Please add a \$10 per day late fee for payments made after Monday.

Game Donations

The Afterschool program is looking for donations of board and card games. Please let Ms. Willis know if you have any you'd like to donate.

St. Patrick's Day Recipes

Irish Scones

- 1 cup white flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 lb. butter, softened
- 2 oz. sugar
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 2 oz. milk
- White or brown raisins (optional)
- Walnut halves (optional)

How to make it:

Mix flour and baking powder. Add butter, blending until mixture is butter-colored. Add sugar and continue to mix well. Add half the beaten egg and all the milk. Add raisins or nuts, if desired, mixing well to make a sticky dough. Turn dough onto floured board and knead at least 5 minutes or longer. Cut dough into rounds and place on greased baking sheet or hot frying pan. Brush tops of scones with remainder of beaten egg. Place

walnut halves on top, if desired. Bake at 350 to 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, or until brown. If preparing over an open fire, heat frying pan till very hot. Place scones in pan and cook 7 to 8 minutes. Turn and cook 7 to 8 minutes more.

Makes 6 scones.

Corned Beef & Cabbage

- 3 lbs. corned beef brisket w/ spice packet
- 10 small red potatoes
- 5 carrots, peeled and julienned
- 1 large head cabbage, cut into small wedges

How to make it:

Place corned beef in large pot or Dutch oven and cover with water. Add the spice packet that came with the corned beef. Cover pot and bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Simmer approximately 50 minutes per pound or until tender. Add whole



potatoes and carrots, and cook until vegetables are almost tender. Add cabbage and cook for 15 more minutes. Remove meat and let rest 15 minutes. Place vegetables in a bowl and cover. Add as much broth (cooking liquid reserved in the Dutch oven or large pot) as you want. Slice meat across the grain.



Community Activities

Meet Jay Jay Day

Saturday, May 16; 11 AM to 3 PM—Bring your family and friends when Jay Jay the Jet Plane lands at the Virginia Aviation Museum. Meet Jay Jay and have your picture taken with this adorable little plane. Plus face-painting, balloon art, button-making, crafts and more. Tickets are \$8 each for all ages and include Virginia Aviation Museum admission. Tickets are limited. Call 1-800-659-1727 or 804-864-1400 to reserve yours.

Family Game Night at Walkerton Tavern

Saturday, March 7; 6-9 PM—Enjoy backgammon, checkers, chess, cards, dominos and other games while sipping a root beer float. Make and take home a 19th-century craft. Parents must accompany children. Free. For more information, contact Cindy Rinker at 804-261-6898.

Happy Birthday! at Meadow Farm

Tuesday, March 24; noon to 3:30 PM—Celebrate Lula Sheppard's 2nd birthday as they did in 1860. Tours will focus on the

celebrations and festivities that surrounded birthdays of the mid-19th century. Free. For more information, contact Anna Truong at 804-501-5520.

Blacksmithing: Too Many Irons in the Fire at Meadow Farm

Saturday, March 14; 1-3 PM—The blacksmith was a very important part of the 19th-century rural community. Watch and listen to the blacksmith as the iron gets red-hot and the smith pounds and bends it into useful objects. Free. For more information, contact Anna Truong at 804-501-5520.

Buckets and Broomsticks at Meadow Farm

Saturday, March 21; 1-3 PM—It is time to spring clean, wash the windows and scrub the floors. Learn about the implements used long ago as you help keep the house free of dirt and bugs. Free. For more information, contact Anna Truong at 804-501-5520.

Warhol's "Photographs and Pictures" exhibit at Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art (University of Richmond)

March 20-May 22—The exhibition showcases selections from the recent gift of 153 original Andy Warhol photographs to the permanent collection of the University of Richmond Museums, given as part of the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program. Visit <http://museums.richmond.edu/information/index.html> for more information.

St. Patrick's Day Festivities

Visit <http://www.richmond.com/local-life/23620> for a full listing.



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We're on the web! Visit

www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org
for pictures, information and email access.

Henrico County School Redistricting Information

Henrico County's Redistricting Committee has been busy tweaking the option maps for the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. The committee will be presenting the updated maps at another series of Community Forums next week. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

- Monday, March 9; 6-7:30 PM—Godwin High School
- Tuesday, March 10; 6-7:30 PM—Elko Middle School
- Wednesday, March 11; 6-7:30 PM—Deep Run High School

At each Community Forum, two sets of paired maps (an elementary, middle, and high school option for each



pairing) will be presented. Feedback will be obtained through an online questionnaire following the forums. To view the two paired options and further information on the redistricting process, please visit <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/boundaries/redistricting.html>. After the Community Forums, the committee will make any additional changes necessary before presenting two options to the School Board in May. The School Board will then vote on its preferred option.