

# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of  
Grace Covenant Community School

Easter Edition  
April 2009

Volume 1, Issue 8



## Easter Traditions

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important feast in the Christian calendar. The churches are filled with worshippers, the altars are decorated with flowers, and the music proclaims the joy of the season.

Easter Sunday falls sometime between March 22 and April 25. It falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following March 21. The date of Easter Sunday was established by the church council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.

Easter Sunday ends a period of preparation for the feast of Easter. This 40-day period of prayer and fasting, called Lent, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. Good Friday marks Christ's crucifixion; and Easter Sunday, his resurrection.

## Candle Sale Fundraiser Update

Grace Covenant Community School participated in a fundraiser selling Mia Bella candles through Terri Engels, an independent Mia Bella representative. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in this fundraiser. We hope everyone will be pleased with their purchases.

Thank you also to the people who have very graciously contributed cash donations to our scholarship fund. Please know how much we appreciate your kindness!



## Learning French



Bonjour! Our 3 and 4 year-old classes have been enjoying their bi-weekly French classes with Ms. McDonough. In April, she will be coming in to do short French lessons on Tuesdays, April 14th

and 28th. We are continuing to use the Professor Toto video series and will be adding some French songs from the book "Play and Learn French."

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  
Ding Dong

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# Preschool Tidbits

## Registration for 2009/10 School Year

Registrations for the preschool program are currently being taken for the 2009/10 school year. We need help in advertising our program. If you would be interested in helping us place signs in windows or handing out preschool/afterschool brochures in your neighborhood, please let us know. Your recommendations are our best advertisement!

## Preschool Storytime

Our preschoolers will be attending the preschool storytime at North Park Library on Friday, April 24 at 10:30 AM.

## Coffee and Fellowship

Don't forget to join the preschool and afterschool parents for coffee and fellowship at First Mennonite Church on Tuesday, April 21 from 9:30-10:30 AM. All are invited!

## Preschool Tuition

Preschool tuition for April 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. Payment for the 3-day program is \$135/mth., or for the 5-day program is \$165/mth. You may also mail your payment to: Grace Covenant Community Ministries, P.O. Box 9617, Richmond, VA 23227

## Afterschool for Fall 2009

If you have a child who will be enrolled in Kindergarten next year, consider using our Afterschool Program. We meet Monday-Friday from the close of school until 5:30 PM and transportation from school to the program is provided. We operate on the Henrico County Schools calendar.

## Summer Program—Please let us know if you're interested!

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. Please let Ms. Willis or Ms. Griner know if your child(ren) will be participating in the summer program.



## 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. Please send any photos you have taken this school year to Linda Willis at prscltchr@juno.com. We have a surprise planned for the program.

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## Afterschool Info



### Outside Play

Please note that we plan to play outside every day, weather-permitting. As you have probably noticed, First Mennonite Church is involved in lots of wonderful work on the grounds. However, because of our weather this Winter, lots of areas outside have been too wet to play. Hopefully, we will have some sunny, dry weather for a few weeks so the kids can enjoy outside play.

### Items From Home

Please remember that if a toy or other item is NOT ALLOWED at school, it is not allowed at Grace Covenant Community School. We are not responsible for these items if they are lost, stolen or broken.

### Homework

It seems to be very rare that anyone has homework. This is despite the fact that many of you have expressed your desire to have your children complete their work during their time with us. Please know that EVERY DAY your child(ren) are offered sufficient time and space to complete their homework. They need to come with pencils, notebook paper, glue, crayons, scissors, etc. to complete any tasks that require these items. We have given every child 2 or more pencils to keep in their backpacks for homework.

### 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.

### 2009/10 School Year Registration

Before school ends in June, we will be sending home an application for our Fall 2009 Afterschool Program. And remember, you will receive a FREE WEEK for every child that enrolls with our program through your recommendation.

## Easy Easter Recipes

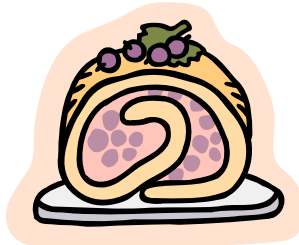
### Easter Ham (in crock pot)

- 1 whole ham
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- Aluminum foil

#### How to make it:

Line crock pot with aluminum foil. Place ham in crock pot. Pour crushed pineapple over ham, and then pour maple syrup over the top. Cover and cook for 6 hours.

Serves 8



### Jellybean Cake

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 container white frosting
- 2 bags jellybeans

#### How to make it:

Prepare a cake according to package directions for a 9 x 13-inch pan. Let cake cool and cut it into egg shape. Frost with white frosting and decorate with jellybeans as desired.

Also you can color coconut flakes with green food coloring and arrange around the base of the cake to resemble grass. Then scatter additional jellybeans on top.

Serves 10



Check out the Easter recipes on the Food Network's website:

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/holidays-and-parties/index.html>

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## Community Easter Events

### Easter Events—First Mennonite Church

Sunday, April 12; 8 AM—Breakfast; 11 AM—Worship service

### Easter Egg Hunt—Lakeside UMC

Saturday, April 11; 10 AM to 12 Noon—This is the church we visited for pumpkin picking in October. They will be holding their annual Easter egg hunt on April 11. A full morning of activities is planned including storytime and some really fun crafts! Mark your calendars and bring your basket and your favorite little person!

### Easter Events—Lakeside UMC

Sunday, April 5; 3 PM—Presentation of Mozart's *Requiem*

Thursday, April 9; 7 PM—Maundy Thursday service

Friday, April 10; 7 PM—Good Friday service

Sunday, April 12; 7 AM—Sunrise service; 8:15 AM—Breakfast; 9 AM—Sunday School; 10:30 AM—Worship service

### Stations of the Cross—Our Lady of Lourdes

Friday, April 10; 2 PM—Traditional Catholic Stations of the Cross in preparation for Easter.

### Annual Easter Egg Celebration—Good Shepherd UMC

Saturday, April 4; 10-11:30 AM—Are your children ready for a fun-filled time, with snacks and an Easter Egg Hunt? Do you want them to learn the true meaning of Easter among the candy and eggs? If so, bring them and their friends, ages 2-10. Most of the activities are inside, so there is no rain date.

### 18th Annual Family Easter Celebration—Maymont Park

Saturday, April 11, 12 Noon to 5 PM—A Richmond Easter tradition comes to life when Maymont is filled with holiday activities for children. The Egg-cellent Egg hunt gets better every year, and visits with the Easter Bunny, bonnet-making and an assortment of games dazzle children of all ages. Storytelling under the bunny tree and musical entertainment included as well.

### Easter on Parade—Monument Avenue (between Davis & Allen Streets)

Sunday, April 12; 1-5 PM—Celebrate the arrival of Spring with thousands of other revelers by parading down scenic Monument Avenue! This Richmond tradition features music, arts & crafts, children's activities and delicious food. Don't miss the annual Pet Bonnet and People Bonnet Showcases on the Main State at Allen Avenue.



The Newsletter of  
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**We're on the web! Visit**

[www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org](http://www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org)  
for pictures, information and email access.

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## 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 making a few last changes to each pairing at committee meetings this week before voting on a recommended pairing to take to the School Board.

Once the committee has chosen a recommended pairing, the School Board will have public hearings before voting on the new redistricting plans. At that time, they can vote either to accept the recommended pairing with no changes, accept the other pairing with no changes, or



accept one of the existing pairings but make changes to it. To view the two paired options and further information on the redistricting process, please visit <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/boundaries/redistricting.html>.