

# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of  
Grace Covenant Community School

Back to School Edition  
Sept. 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Welcome Back to School!

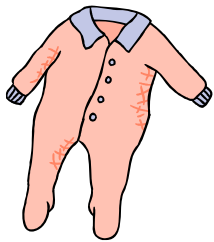
Grace Covenant Community School would like to welcome you "back to school" this fall! Both our Preschool and Afterschool programs have a busy school year planned, and we look forward to sharing your child's growth and progress with you throughout the year.

Below are some "helpful hints" from the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) on helping your child(ren) adjust to this sometimes stressful time:

1. Be enthusiastic about the upcoming change. If you are excited and confident, your child will be, too.
2. Prepare yourself. Take note of how your child reacts to separation. If possible, visit the new setting with your child. Introduce your child to the new teacher or early childhood professional in advance.
3. Arrange a playdate with another child from the program, preferably one-on-one, so that your child will see a familiar face when she walks in.
4. Start daily routines that will add to continuity. Let your child become involved with packing lunch or laying out clothes. Also, begin an earlier bedtime several weeks before.
5. Put aside extra time, particularly on the first day, for chatting and commuting together. But remember not to prolong the good-bye. If the child whines or clings, staying will only make it harder.
6. Always say good-bye to your child. Be firm, but friendly about separating. Never ridicule a child for crying. Instead, make supportive statements like, "it's hard to say good-bye."
7. At the end of the work day, put aside your concerns and focus on being a parent.

Source: <http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content3/back.school.p.k12.4.html>

## Kids' Clothing Swap



Do you have gently-used kids' clothing you need to unload? Do you need an economical way to get

your quickly-growing child(ren) some new clothes? In conjunction with the Richmond Mommies online message board ([www.richmondmommies.com](http://www.richmondmommies.com)), Giraffes & Elephants, a children's consignment shop on Mountain Rd., will be hosting a clothing swap on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 2-4 PM. For every gently-used kids' item you bring, you'll obtain one "credit" to use in choosing from

other clothing items to take home. Items with stains and/or holes will be accepted, but they won't earn credits and will be placed on a "free" table.

If you're interested in participating, please RSVP to Heather McDonough by email ([rsbryswrrl@gmail.com](mailto:rsbryswrrl@gmail.com)) or phone (804-502-7306). Goody bags will be provided, so please RSVP by Sept. 30.

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# Preschool Tidbits

## Supplies Needed

- 1 box crayons
- 1 box broad-tip markers
- 1 pair blunt-tip scissors
- 12 glue sticks
- 1 bottle white glue
- 1 watercolor set
- 1 ream white paper
- 1 box tissues
- 1 box gallon-size plastic bags
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- 1 bottle liquid soap
- 1 box wipes
- 3 rolls paper towels

## 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/departments/rec/>- Information on Henrico County Parks and Recreation activities and programs, including at Meadow Farm, Laurel Skate Park and more

## Preschool Reminders

- Your child will need a snack each day.
- School opens at 9 AM and ends at 12 Noon.
- Please send in your preschooler’s supplies and completed forms as soon as possible.
- We have openings in our Preschool program. Please tell family and friends who may be interested.
- If you or a family member have a talent you’d like to share with our Preschoolers, please let Linda Willis know.
- Tuition for September is due.



**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



## Supplies Needed

- 1 pack notebook paper + 1 ream white paper
- 1 dozen pencils and small sharpener
- 1 bottle white glue
- 6 glue sticks
- 1 roll tape
- 1 pair scissors
- 1 box crayons + 1 box markers
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- 1 box gallon-sized plastic bags
- 1 100-piece puzzle

# Afterschool Info

## Afterschool Reminders

- Weekly Afterschool program fees are due on Mondays.
- The Afterschool program closes at 5:30 PM each day.
- Please send your child’s supplies in as soon as possible.

## Calendar Reminder

Grace Covenant’s Afterschool Program will be closed on Monday, Sept. 28. This day is also a Henrico County school holiday.

## Snacks

Grace Covenant will soon begin selling healthy snacks you can purchase for your Afterschooler. We’ll set up a “wallet” for each child who is purchasing snacks, and parents can deposit money into it. Each snack will cost 50 cents. Once the “wallet” funds are diminished, you’ll be notified that more funds are needed and how much is left.

## Library Visits

Our visits to the North Park library will begin soon. Stay tuned for further information!

# Fall Fun Recipes

## All-Natural Play Clay

Add color to this no-cook dough using ingredients from your own kitchen, and you won't have to worry if some ends up in your toddler's mouth (though the taste probably won't be to his/her liking).

Materials and Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 3/8 cup salt
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Natural dye (see info below)

In a medium-size bowl, combine the flour and salt. Pour in the oil and your chosen natural dye and stir well. Knead the dough on a floured surface for a few minutes. If the clay is too soft, add a bit more flour. Store the clay in airtight containers in the refrigerator.

Brown—3/8 cup + 1 tbsp. hot water and 4 tbsp. cocoa powder

Fuchsia—3/8 cup hot beet juice/liquid from a 15 oz. can of beets

Orange—3/8 cup hot water and 1 tbsp. paprika

Yellow—3/8 cup hot water and 1 tsp. turmeric

## Apple Crisp

- \*2 large baking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- \*1/3 Cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- \*1/3 Cup firmly packed brown sugar
- \*1/3 Cup all-purpose flour
- \*1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- \*1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- \*1/4 Cup butter or margarine

Prepare apples by peeling, coring and slicing. Place in bottom of a small casserole dish. In mixing bowl add oats, sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and butter. Mix together until crumbly. You can use your hands to break up clumps. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.



## Back to School Bus Cookies

- Nutter Butter cookies
- Raisins
- Icing
- Toothpicks

Take nutter [butter](#) cookies and with the tooth pick apply the icing where the wheels would be on a school bus. Then put the raisins on. If you have the cake decoration bags you can also make little windows on the cookie. these are very easy and fast to make for a quick after school snack and the kid love them no matter what age your child is. Good luck and have a great school year!



# Foreign Language Curriculum

Grace Covenant Community School will again be offering foreign language lessons to our Preschoolers this year. 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.

During the Fall semester, your Preschooler will have a French lesson each Tuesday morning (around 20 minutes). In the Spring, we'll be learning Spanish. We'll be using a variety of language learning programs, such as Dora & Diego, Professor Toto and Muzzy. Lessons will be conducted by Heather McDonough, a mom of a preschooler and fluent French speaker.

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.

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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## School Days

Are you on Twitter? Follow Grace Covenant Community School at [www.twitter.com/prslctchr](http://www.twitter.com/prslctchr). Also follow Henrico County Public Schools at [www.twitter.com/Henricoschools](http://www.twitter.com/Henricoschools).

Henrico County Public Schools have an online newsletter at <http://henrico.k12.va.us/schooldays/schooldays.html>. Check it out for news and information on school issues.

Read an interview in the Richmond Times-Dispatch with Henrico County Public Schools' new superintendent, Patrick Russo: [http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/education/article/RUSS05\\_20090804-213604/284078](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/education/article/RUSS05_20090804-213604/284078).

Check out Henrico County Public Schools on TV. The programming guide is available at <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/parents/hcpstv.html>.

Stay informed on new school boundaries. Visit <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/boundaries/boundaries.html>.

Keep up to date with what's going on in the School Board. Visit <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/schoolboards/schoolboards.html>.

