

# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of  
Grace Covenant Community School

Fall Edition  
October 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Fall Preschool Activities



The Preschool will be visited by an engine company of the Henrico County Fire Department. When that date has been confirmed, we will notify you. Once that date is set, we will set the date for our visit to Lakeside United Methodist Church for selecting pumpkins, storytime and snack.

## 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." Homemade 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.

## Parking Lot Resurfacing

First Mennonite Church will be having the parking lot resurfaced this Thursday and Friday, October 8 & 9.

Preschool parents: please meet Mrs. Griner and Mrs. Willis in the North Park Library parking lot promptly at 9 a.m. Weather-permitting, we will walk on our footpath behind the Library to the church. And we will follow

the same procedure when picking up at noon on both days. Everyone park at the rear of the parking lot and we will meet you there. If the weather changes necessitating changes in this plan, we will call you the night before or early that morning.

Afterschool parents: When you arrive to pick up your child, you may either park on St. Charles

Road (in front of the church) and if possible walk to the normal door for pick up. Or you may park at the North Park Library and take the path behind the library.

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## Preschool Tidbits

### Supplies and Forms

Please send in your preschooler's supplies and completed forms as soon as possible!

### Substitute List

If you are interested in being added to our substitute list, please contact Linda Willis at 262-9023. There will be times when either Mrs. Griner or Mrs. Willis will need to be absent from school and we would need to have someone come in to help.

### Preschool Reminders

- October tuition is due now.
- The Preschool is in need of riding toys in good condition. If you have one or more, please let Linda Willis know.
- Preschool begins promptly at 9 AM and ends at 12 Noon.
- We have a few more openings left. Please let your friends, neighbors and family know.



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

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## Afterschool Info



- \* Upcoming Afterschool Library trip: October 8 at 3:30 p.m.
- \* Please remember to update your contact information periodically should persons or telephone numbers change.
- \* If you have not sent in your child's supplies, please do so as soon as possible.
- \* If your children have outgrown riding toys, our preschool could really use them. (elaborate)
- \* We will begin providing snacks for sale. We will offer a variety for **50 cents each**. We

will use the same system the public schools do. You may send in cash at the beginning of each. Your child will be credited with that amount and when their "account" is empty, we will notify you.

\* We have been asked by some of you if we can provide transportation home in the evenings. Please let us know if that is something you might be interested in. There would be an additional transportation fee and 24 hours written notice would be required.

# October Fun Recipes

## Candy Corn Treats

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
9 cup miniature marshmallows  
10 cup chocolate Rice Krispy cereal  
2 cup candy corn  
3/4 cup miniature chocolate chips  
assorted candy pumpkins

Melt butter in [large saucepan](#) over medium heat. Add marshmallows and stir until smooth. Pour cereal, candy corn and chocolate chips into large bowl. Pour butter and marshmallows over cereal mixture, stirring quickly to coat. For best results, use a wooden spoon sprayed with nonstick [cooking spray](#). Spread mixture on large buttered jelly-roll pan, pressing out evenly with buttered hands. While still warm, press on candy pumpkins spaced about 1-1/2" apart. Cool, then cut into squares.

## Tombstone Cupcakes How-To

1. To make a cupcake cemetery, spread devil's food cupcakes with chocolate ganache icing (all recipe links follow). Dip the top of each frosted cupcake in crushed chocolate wafers to create the look of dirt, then insert shortbread-cookie tombstones, piping them with scary messages like "Boo!" or "R.I.P." in royal icing.

2. Top more devil's food cupcakes with chocolate ganache and chocolate-wafer "dirt," make a hole in the center of each cupcake with your finger, and position half a Gummi worm to look like it's slithering out of the hole.

3. Enlist your kids to draw scary Halloween figures, or copy Halloween images out of books. Cut the pictures out, tape them to cocktail straws (you can cut the straws shorter, if



necessary), and insert them into cupcakes you've decorated with orange-tinted cream-cheese frosting.

4. Decorate more devil's food cupcakes with orange cream-cheese frosting, then spell out words or phrases like "Happy Halloween" by forming one to three letters out of thin black licorice on top of each cupcake.

5. Serve your cupcakes on a tray covered with candy corn.

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## Foreign Language Curriculum

Our 3 and 4 year-old Preschool Classes have begun their French lessons this semester. We have had two lessons so far, in which we've introduced "Hello," "Goodbye," "My name is...", "I am \_ years old," the days of the week, and the numbers from 1-10.

If you'd like to work with your preschooler on learning some French words, below are some of the things we'll be talking about and their pronunciations:

- Bonjour (bone-zhour) - Hello
- Au revoir (Awr-vwar) - Goodbye
- J'ai trois/quatre ans (Zhay twas/

katre ons) - I am three/four years old.

- Je m'appelle \_\_\_\_ (Zhe mappell \_\_\_\_ ) - My name is \_\_\_\_

Days of the week:

- Lundi (Lundy) - Monday
- Mardi (Mardy) - Tuesday
- Mercredi (Mare-kre-dee) - Wednesday
- Jeudi (Zhe-dee) - Thursday
- Vendredi (Vonn-dred-ee) - Friday
- Samedi (Sam-dee) - Saturday
- Dimanche (Dee-monch) - Sunday

Numbers:

- Un (Unn) - One
- Due (Duh) - Two
- Trois (Twah) - Three
- Quatre (Katre) - Four
- Cinq (Sank) - Five
- Six (Seess) - Six
- Sept (Set) - Seven
- Huit (Wheat) - Eight
- Neuf (Nuff) - Nine
- Dix (Deess) - Ten

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Grace Covenant  
Community School

601 E. Parham Rd.  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Telephone: (804) 262-9023

Web:

[www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org](http://www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org)

E-mail: [prsltchr@juno.com](mailto:prsltchr@juno.com)



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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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## Parenting Websites

Next time you have a free moment to “surf the web,” check out some of these informative parenting websites:

<http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extnews/pipeline/p-parent.htm>—  
Parenting Preschoolers

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/pparent.shtml>—Preschool  
Education Parent’s Corner

<http://parenting.preschoolrock.com>—Preschool Rock/Preschool  
Parenting

<http://www.parenting.com>— “Parenting” and “Babytalk”  
magazines

[http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/family/kids-parenting/  
best-parenting-websites-0000000008335/index.html](http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/family/kids-parenting/best-parenting-websites-0000000008335/index.html)— “Real  
Simple” magazine’s best parenting websites

