

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

Thanksgiving Edition
November 2009

Volume 2, Issue 3

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."

Cold and Flu Season Reminders

Please do not send your child(ren) to Preschool or Afterschool if the following is true:

- *cough, runny nose (certainly related to colds, however, if allergy-related, a note from your child's physician must be in our files indicating this information.
- *Fever
- *Grace Covenant Community School is a Well-Child facility. If your child has visited the school clinic and you have been advised to pick up your child, we will contact you as soon as they arrive at our facility. If we are unable to contact you, we will begin calling your emergency numbers. We do not have back-up staff. If Mrs. Griner or Mrs. Willis become ill, we will have to close the programs.

School and Community Notes

First Mennonite Church will be holding a **Celtic Christmas Holiday Celebration, Saturday, December 19 at 7:30** with a reception to follow. Featuring Maggie Sansone, Andrea Hoag and Sharon Knowles. A \$10 donation for adults

and a \$5 donation for children is suggested.

Remember others in need -
Please send in donations of non-perishable food,

including baby supplies to be given to Lamb's Basket (Henrico County Food pantry)

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Preschool Tidbits

Fee Note:

Grace Covenant Community School is a self-supporting ministry. We do not receive any outside funding. We rely on fees and tuition for staff salaries and supplies.

Preschool tuition must be paid by the 5th of the month. Please add late fee after that date.

Please read the attached information on children and violence.

We are working with our preschoolers to play in appropriate ways. We are re-directing their play in more positive ways. For example, instead of "bad cops", "bad guys", guns, fighting guys, knives and "carnage" being mentioned in play, we are talking about how people learn to get along together in positive, caring ways. We hope you can continue this in your own homes.

Preschool Notes

In lieu of Christmas gifts for our teachers, please consider making a donation to our "Riding Toy Fund". Our outdoor riding toys are showing their age and we need to replace them. The riding toys are the favorites of all our preschoolers. We need to purchase new ones to replace worn-out ones and to add to our supply. And at any time throughout the school year, if you would contribute to our fund, please add your donation to your tuition payment. Thanks so much!

If you are unable to get to preschool by 9:10 a.m., please come back the next day. At 9:10, we lock the front door and begin our Welcome/Circle Time in each class. It is very disruptive, once we have begun our calendar activities, to stop to let late arrivals in. And please call (804)502-8566 and leave a voice mail message if your child will not be attending school on a particular day.

Preschool Library Time: Friday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m. Children who attend 3 mornings per week can come to school on Friday instead of Thursday.



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

Coffee and Fellowship

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

Grace Covenant parents are also invited to join First Mennonite for worship on Sundays at 11 AM.

Afterschool Info

Don't Forget:

1) Please remember, our Afterschool Program ends promptly at 5:30 p.m. Effective November 16, 2009, we will begin charging a late fee of \$10 per 10 minutes. Make sure everyone who is responsible for pick up of your child is aware of this. It is the staff's task to care for your children in a professional, loving and responsible manner – not determine who is picking up on a given day. That is the responsibility of each family.

2) Afterschool Craft Time at Library: Thursday, November 19 at 3:30 p.m. We have begun to take trips to the library on additional times.

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.

Fee Note

Afterschool weekly fees are due on Mondays. Please add late fee if paid after that day. The only exception to that day is if the program is closed on Monday or your child is not present with us on Monday.



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 Nov. 19 through 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 Nov. 27 through Jan. 11. \$10 per adult, \$6 per child. www.lewisginter.org
- Bizarre Bazaar's 34th Christmas Celebration—Dec. 3 through 6. \$6.50 adults, \$1 children. Located at Richmond Raceway Complex.
- The Mountain Road Corridor Holiday Celebration—Saturday, Dec. 5.

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. 13. 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. 13, 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. 6, 3 PM. www.mechanicsvillerotary.org
- 25th Annual Ukrop's Christmas Parade—Saturday, Dec. 5, 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.

Fun Stuff



[http://
www.flatstanleybooks.com/
adventuresbydisney](http://www.flatstanleybooks.com/adventuresbydisney)

Visit the Flat Stanley website to download pages to color. You can cut out the Flat Stanley character, take a picture of him and include it with a story to enter to win a trip from Adventures by Disney.

Have fun discovering some good sweepstakes, bargain/discount and freebie websites:

www.online-sweepstakes.com

www.sweepsadvantage.com

[www.freesamplesite.com/
ydf/index.php](http://www.freesamplesite.com/ydf/index.php)

[http://slickdeals.net/
forums](http://slickdeals.net/forums)

www.fatwallet.com