

# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of  
Grace Covenant Community School

Valentine's Edition  
February 2010

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Valentine's Celebrations



Our preschoolers will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Monday, February 15. Watch your child's backpack for a list of his/her classmates to send in valentines for. Please feel free to send in special Valentine's Day treats as well.

## Valentine's Day Lore

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today.

Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure...February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating clear back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines ranks second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent.

Another valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.

## Registration for Next Year

Please remember that special reduced registration fees for next year's Preschool classes will end on February 28. After February 28, the regular registration fee of \$75 will apply.

Afterschool families: Please remember that you will receive a free week for each child you recommend to our program who enrolls.

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# Preschool Tidbits

## Curriculum Info

In February, our Godly Play curriculum will cover the following Parables: Parable of the Great Pearl, Parable of the Sower, Parable of the Leaven, Parable of the Mustard Seed.

## Don't Forget

Preschool WILL be open on Monday, Feb. 15, even though Henrico County Schools are closed.

## First Mennonite Church Activities

Please join First Mennonite Church for the following February activities:

- First Wednesday Meal—Wed., Feb. 3, 6 PM
- Coffee & Fellowship—Tues., Feb. 16, 9:30-10:30 AM
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—Tues., Feb. 16, 6 PM

## Preschool Tuition

Preschool tuition for February 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 can always use rolls of paper towels and Clorox wipes if you'd like to donate a package or two.

## Preschool Library Time

Our preschoolers will be visiting the North Park library on Friday, Feb. 12.



## Foreign Language Curriculum

Our Preschool classes are doing so well learning French! Many of our preschoolers can say the numbers from 1-10. Every Tuesday, we learn more through videos, songs and discussion. Tres bien!

# Afterschool Info

## Valentine's Day Celebration

The Afterschool children will welcome Movie Day on Friday, Feb. 12, as well as special Valentine's party treats.

## Afterschool Library Time

Our afterschoolers will be visiting North Park library on Thursday, Feb. 11. Please remember to send your child's library card with them if they'd like to check out books.

## Afterschool Program Closed

Afterschool will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15, as Henrico County Schools are closed.

## 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.



## Chocolate Hearts Recipe

The kids will love the results of this easy recipe. All you need are a few items to make your own Valentine's chocolates. Give them away as gifts or enjoy for yourself!

### What you'll need:

- Plastic heart-shaped candy mold
- Red, white and cocoa colored candy melts
- Sandwich bags (zipper, not pleated)
- Scissors
- Spoon
- Wax paper
- Plate
- Wooden skewer or clean craft paintbrush

### How to make it:

1. Put a handful of candy melts into an open zipper sandwich bag.

1. Microwave candy in bag for 30-40 seconds or until melted.
2. Cut one corner of the bag with scissors to squeeze melted candy through. **Caution:** Bag may be hot, so use paper towel or a pot holder to handle it.
3. Gently squeeze chocolate out of bag and into the molds.
4. Tap the side of the mold tray to knock out any air bubbles and flatten chocolate.
5. Place in refrigerator until set.
6. Pop out of molds and serve.

### Decorating

**Polka dots** - Use the flat end of a wooden skewer or a clean craft paint brush to dip into melted chocolate. Dot onto molds, then refrigerate. Remove mold from refrigerator when solid, then add contrasting color according to directions above.



**Drizzles** - Use a spoon to drizzle melted chocolate across the molds by sweeping a spoon back and forth and allowing chocolate to fall in streams. Refrigerate until solid. Add contrasting color according to directions above.

**3D Drizzles** - Use the spoon method above, however this time drizzle the chocolate over solid candy that you have already made and let set, rather than drizzling into the molds.

## Community Activities

From Commonwealth Parenting  
([www.commonwealthparenting.org](http://www.commonwealthparenting.org)):

- Cool Ways to Respond to Hot Buttons Elementary Kids Push—What are the hot buttons your elementary-aged child pushes in your house? Our class offers parents some cool responses. **Thursday, Feb. 18; 6:30-8:30 PM; FREE—Pre-registration required**
- Evening Conversations with Suzanne—For parents of children of all ages. Join family educator Suzanne Hanky for conversation and parental support in this informal, open-topic setting. Bring your questions. **Friday, Feb. 19; 6:30-7:30 PM; FREE**
- The Cool Kid: Helping Kids Manage Anger—Teaching children to express their anger and frustration in age-appropriate ways is a challenging but important job for the adults who parent and guide them. **Thursday, Feb. 25; 6:30-8:30 PM; \$25 per person**

From Henrico County Recreation & Parks  
([www.co.henrico.va.us/departments/rec](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/departments/rec)):

- Black History Month Celebration—Saturday, Feb. 6, 11 AM-6 PM, Henrico Theatre, FREE, Elegba Folklore Society, Finezz, Wendall Scott, Movie: Greased Lightning, Apollo Showcase
- Lil' Crafters—Saturday, Feb. 27, 9-10 AM, Ages 4-5 accompanies by an adult, Walkerton Tavern, \$6 per session
- Sweetheart Ball for Mothers and Sons—Friday, Feb. 26, 6-8 PM, Confederate Hills Recreation Center, \$7.50 per person, ages 3-5
- Cocoa To Go—Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 AM-12:30 PM, The Armour House, Make your own cocoa and mug, \$15, ages 6-12
- Walkerton Winter Gardeners: Indoor Gardens—Saturday, Feb. 20, 9-11 AM, Walkerton Tavern, FREE, ages 7-12

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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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## First Mennonite Collecting Supplies for Haiti

First Mennonite Church is collecting supplies for relief kits as part of their response to the Haiti earthquakes. Relief kits provide valuable supplies to families traumatized by war and disasters. If you can help, please see the following list for items being collected for the relief kits:

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapping)
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (13-24 oz., place bottle in re-sealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars of laundry soap, such as Fels Naptha, Sunlight or Zote brand
- 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (minimum 6 oz., leave in box)



- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium-weight, dark or bright colors)
- 2 wide-tooth combs (6-8 inches)
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi)

First Mennonite is also seeking donations of heavy comforters and flat sheets. Sheets will be used as bedding and mosquito netting. For comforters, new or nearly new and single/twin size are preferred.