

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

Easter Edition
April 2010

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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.

Sesame Street Now at Busch Gardens

The Sesame Street Forest of Fun is the newest attraction at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. This interactive play area has family-friendly rides, a water play zone and the 4-D movie "Sesame Street Presents: Lights, Camera, Imagination!" All your child's favorite Sesame Street friends are here—Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more! You and your family can even dine with Elmo and friends. Visit www.buschgardens.com/va for more info. Busch Gardens also offers season passes with convenient monthly payments. You can choose a Busch Gardens pass, or add Water Country U.S.A. All passes include free parking. They even have an option to add Tampa Bay Busch Gardens, SeaWorld Orlando and other affiliated parks.



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 13th,

20th and 27th. 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 2010/11 School Year

Registrations for the preschool program are currently being taken for the 2010/11 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 23 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 20 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. You may also mail your payment to: Grace Covenant Community Ministries, P.O. Box 9617, Richmond, VA 23227

Afterschool for Fall 2010

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 children 3 - 7 years old. Our summer program will offer trips to local pools, Three Lakes Park, movies, arts and crafts and movement. We will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00. Please let Ms. Willis 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 Thursday, May 27. 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.

Afterschool Info



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.

2010/11 School Year Registration

Before school ends in June, we will be sending home an application for our Fall 2010 Afterschool Program. And remember, you will receive a FREE WEEK for every child that enrolls with our program through your recommendation.

Easy Easter Recipes

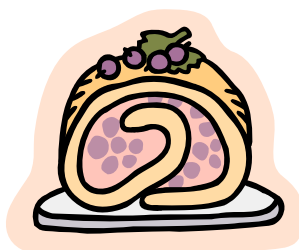
Easter Ham (in crock pot)

- 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>

Fun Community Activities

Earth Day Celebration—Sat., April 17, 1-4 PM, Three Lakes Park, FREE

Family Game Night—Fri., April 23, 6-8 PM, Walkerton Tavern, FREE

Sheep to Shawl—Sat., April 17, Noon-4 PM, Meadow Farm Museum, FREE

World Tai Chi Day—Sat., April 24, 9-11 AM, Walkerton Tavern, FREE

Visit www.co.henrico.va.us/departments/rec for more information on Henrico County Recreation & Parks programs. Registration for Summer programs begins on Sat., May 15.

Spring Job Fair—Tues., April 20, 1-6 PM, J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College, Parham Road Campus

Children's Garden Spring Fling—Sun., April 25, 9 am-5 pm, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, \$10 adult admission, \$6 children 3-12 admission, children under 3 free

Spring Plant Sale—Thurs., April 29 through Sat., May 1, 9 am-5 pm, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, FREE

Visit www.lewisginter.org for information on other events.

Richmond Flying Squirrels—Fireworks After Game, Thurs., Apr. 15

Visit www.squirrelsbaseball.com for information on other upcoming games and tickets.

Richmond Revolution Indoor Football—Home Game Sat., April 24

Visit www.richmondrevolution.com for information on other upcoming games and tickets.

YMCA Healthy Kids Day— Sat., April 17, 10 am-2 pm, Shady Grove Family YMCA

Visit www.ymcarichmond.org/healthykids for details.

Target \$1 Family Night—Children's Museum of Richmond, Fri., April 16, 5-7:30 PM

Nature Fair—Crestwood Elementary, Sat., April 17, 1-4 pm, FREE, activities, plant sale

Conversations With Suzanne—Commonwealth Parenting, Thurs., April 22, 9:30-10:30 AM, FREE

Poetry Celebration—Ashland Library, Thurs., April 22, 7 PM, FREE

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We're on the web! Visit
www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org
for pictures, information and email access.

Spring Crafts: Coffee Filter Butterflies

These beautifully vibrant butterflies are a great way to welcome spring! Suspend them from the ceiling with fishing line, or make several and attach to a paper plate mobile.

What you'll need:

- ½ black chenille stem
- Paper coffee filter
- Water color paints
- Paint brush
- Water

How to make it:

1. Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper, the paint and water will soak through. Set aside on paper towels to dry.

2. Fold the chenille stem in half. Remember, you are only using half of a chenille stem to begin with.
3. Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about ½" pleats.
4. Position the pleated coffee filter into the bent end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend.
5. Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place.
6. Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about ¼" to create the antennae.
7. Fan out the butterfly wings.

If desired, hang with yarn or fishing line.

Tips:

- For a more vibrant butterfly, be sure to paint all white areas with paint.
- Tie a piece of fishing line around the "neck" and suspend from the ceiling. They will look like they are flying!