

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of
Grace Covenant Community School

Valentine's Edition
February 2011

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Valentine's Celebrations



Our preschoolers celebrated Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 14. Both classes had some special Valentine's treats and exchanged cards and goodies with all their friends. Happy Valentine's Day to all!

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

Attached is an application for pre-registration for Fall 2011. If you have a 5 year-old who will be graduating from G.C.C.S, please pass on the application to a friend. If your child will be returning to G.C.C.S. in the Fall, please return the completed application along with your \$75 registration fee as soon as possible. We anticipate filling up early, so make sure you reserve a space for your child. We look forward to seeing you and your family back next year!

In this issue:

Valentine's Celebrations	1
Valentine's Day Lore	1
Registration for Next Year	1
Preschool Tidbits	2
Afterschool Info	2
Chocolate Hearts Recipe	3
Community Activities	3
Bargains and Deals for Moms	4

Preschool Tidbits

Welcome Our New Intern!

We have Miss Jenna Colucci working in our 3 year-old class this Spring. She is interning through J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College's Early Childhood Education program. She will graduate this May with an AAS degree in Early Childhood Education.

Don't Forget

If you haven't sent in your \$5.25 for the Scholastic "Let's Find Out" magazine, please do so as soon as possible.



Afterschool Scheduling and Rules

Homework time is every day for a minimum of 30 minutes. We do not allow talking during this time, however if your child is finished with homework, they can certainly bring a book to read. Once the group has finished, we go outside (weather-permitting) every day. When we come back inside or if we have to stay inside, the children choose from a variety of activities: games, puzzles, artwork, crafts, etc. Some children request to watch a movie. Friday is always movie day, usually accompanied by popcorn or ice cream. If you would like to send in a G or PG rated movie or a snack to share, it would be greatly appreciated. We have questions concerning children exchanging phone numbers and other personal information. Please discuss with your child as to whether they have permission to share this information.

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

Please remember: tuition for 3 days per week is \$135 and 5 days per week is \$165 per month.

Extended Hours

Preschool is offering extended hours on Mondays and Tuesdays by reservation only. You have a choice of 12-2:30 pm or 12-5:30 pm. Please contact Linda Willis for details.

Preschool Library Time

Our preschoolers will be visiting the North Park library on Friday, Feb. 25.



Foreign Language Curriculum

Our Preschool classes are learning some Spanish this Spring. Our lessons haven't been as regular as in the past, since Mrs. McDonough is about to have a new baby, but your preschoolers should be learning some numbers and colors and will have lessons at least every other week.

Afterschool Info

Upcoming Full-Day Holidays

Both Henrico County Schools and the Afterschool Program will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21; Wednesday, Mar. 16; the week of April 18-22 and Monday, May 30. The last day of the Afterschool Program will be Thursday, June 16.

Afterschool Library Time

We would like to visit the library more regularly this Spring. However, because most of the children want to work on the computers or check out books, we need them to bring their library card or write down their card number for the librarian. The librarian will not look up card numbers.

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):

- Commonwealth Parenting has a number of upcoming events, including a benefit concert and DadChats. They also host a segment on parenting on Lite98 and have several podcasts on parenting available to download from their website. Visit <http://www.commonwealthparentingcenter.org/news-events> for more information!
- Nobody Told Me class—FREE, For Moms only, Wed., Mar. 9, 9:30 AM at Innsbrook. Visit <http://www.commonwealthparentingcenter.org/classes> to register.
- Kite Festival and the Tastes and Sounds of Henrico—Sat., Mar. 5, 10 am-4 pm, Dorey Park, FREE
- Registration for Henrico County's Summer Camps will begin on Sat., Mar. 12 from 8 am-noon at the Confederate Hills Recreation Center & Henrico Training Center. Summer camp programs are available for children ages 3-17.
- \$1 Movies at the Henrico Theatre in Highland Springs—"42nd Street," Fri., Mar. 4, 7 pm and Sat., Mar. 5, 2 & 7 pm
- Joe Enroughty & His Royal Virginians—Big Band performance, Fri., Feb. 18, 7 pm, Henrico Theatre, FREE
- Theatre IV: "I Have a Dream—The Life and Times of Martin Luther King, Jr." - Sat., Feb. 26, 4 & 7 pm, Henrico Theatre, FREE
- On-the-Air Radio Players present "The 39 Steps" - Tue. and Wed., Mar. 1 & 2, 7:30 PM, The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, FREE
- Sweetheart Ball for Mothers and Sons—Fri., Feb. 25, 6-7:30 pm, Confederate Hills Recreation Center, \$7.50 per person
- Discovery Hunt—Sat., Feb. 19, 10-11 am, Walkerton Tavern, FREE
- Meadow Farm Volunteer Open House—Sat., Mar. 12, 1-3 PM, Meadow Farm Museum, FREE
- Tales from Edgar Allen Poe—Fri., Feb. 18, 7-8:30 pm, Walkerton Tavern, FREE

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

- African-American History of Henrico County in Music and Stories—Fri., Feb. 11, 6-9:30 PM and Sat., Feb. 12, 2-5:30 PM, Henrico Theatre, FREE

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We're on the web! Visit

www.gracecovenantcommunityschool.org
for pictures, information and email access.

Bargains and Deals for Moms

The next time you hop online to browse the web, point your browser to some of these sites. You'll get great tips and information on huge discounts on items for you and your family.

www.30dollarweeklygrocerychallenge.com—The \$30 Grocery Challenge is meant to challenge you to live large on less while finding the best deals at the grocery store and in retail stores!

<http://athriftymom.com>—Couponing 101, as well as daily listings of the latest deals, discounts, coupons and freebies

<http://bargainbriana.com>—My goal is to teach others to save money while

shopping by utilizing effective coupon methods.

www.commonsewithmoney.com—Live well with less!

www.coupondad.net/blog—Compilation of the latest coupons you can print at home

www.couponing101.com—Introduction to couponing and listings of the latest coupons and deals

<http://dealseekingmom.com>—Mom of 5 teaching you how to save big so you can live large

