



February 2012

GRACE NOTES

News From Grace Preschool

A community preschool since 1967

7800 County Road 42, Apple Valley, MN 55124 * 952-432-5451

Book Orders On Line

Now it's easier than ever to find the perfect books for your child. Grace Preschool is offering online book ordering with Scholastic. When you see the book order form come home you have the choice of ordering off the form or online. To order online simply go to <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clubs/routing.asp> to register. Our Class Activation Code is **H6VGV**. All orders will be sent to Mrs. Sachs at Grace Preschool, then sent home with your child.

¡Uds. pueden pedir los libros en español!

If you are interested in ordering Scholastic books that are written in Spanish, order forms are available from Mrs. Berg or your teacher. These order forms include books for all ages from preschool-grade 8.

Check Out the GPS Webpage

Do you want to know if your child has show and tell today, but can't find the calendar? Worry no more; GPS now has that information available on our webpage. In addition to general information about our school, our webpage has links to our yearly calendar and monthly newsletter and calendar. Each classroom has its own calendar and newsletter, so be sure to scroll down to find the one that pertains to your child. Go to www.graceofav.org (Grace Lutheran Church website) and click on the "Grace Preschool" link.

Tell Your Friends

Registration for the 2012-13 school year is underway. If you know any parents who are considering preschool for their children, we'd be grateful if you would encourage them to check out Grace Preschool.

Thank You, Parents!

Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered in a variety of ways (as readers, bakers, art helpers, special speakers, etc.) in our classrooms. Your interest and caring make a difference!

I would personally like to thank a very special group of parents who serve in an advisory capacity to me and who help in many ways to keep our school running smoothly. The parents on this year's Parent Advisory Board include: Jennifer Little, Erin Luedtke, Solvei Schatteles, Kristin Ahmed, Melissa Leick and Steve Nickelson.

Thanks to all of you for all you do.

Important!

If you registered a child for the 2012-2013 school year, you should have received registration materials and a GPS handbook. If you have not yet received a packet of materials, please see Kristine Berg. (Note: Those children staying with us for a second year **DO NOT need to complete the pink Health Summary or the yellow Immunization form**; we will simply "shift" your current medical forms to the appropriate teacher for next school year.) Please complete the forms and return by February 10.



Check Backpacks Frequently this Month

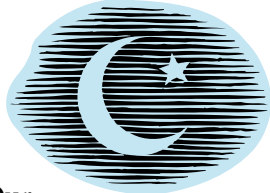
With field trips and other special events on the calendar this month, please be sure to check your child's backpack each day for important notes we will be sending home.

News from Mrs. Sachs/Mrs. Schlawin/Mrs. Menk

We enjoyed seeing many of you at Parent Day last month. The children were so excited about sharing their school with you! We look forward to having many of you visit again as “helpers” in the coming months. If you are interested, please check the sign-up sheets outside our classroom door.

January 30 - February 4 ~ All About Night

Some people work all night while we are sleeping. Some animals are awake all night, too! Why is sleep so important for our bodies? We'll experiment with shadows and share some of our favorite night time dreams. Our dramatic play area will be set up as a bakery.



February 2 & 3 will be Pajama Day! More information will be sent home later.

February 6-10 ~ Valentine's Day/Feelings

We have many different feelings and all those feelings are a wonderful part of who we are. There are many ways to share and express our feelings and we'll try to figure out some appropriate ways to do so! We'll learn a little about our hearts and how they work. Watch for artwork in reds, pinks and purples - we're ready to move out of those January “blues!”



*February 13 & 14: Valentine Parties!
Children may bring valentines for their friends
and wear valentine colors!*



February 15-17 ~ Construction

We'll be building and balancing with different types of objects. Practice with sequencing will be provided through games and looking at pictures of a home during various stages of construction. Many types of construction vehicles are involved and we'll take a look at them and what they can do. Children will be provided with an opportunity to pound nails and use real screwdrivers. Parents will be needed to help supervise. Please check the sign-up sheets.



February 20 ~ NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)

February 21-24 ~ Animal Habitats

Our planet is home to many animals and each requires a special habitat. Some like it cold and some like it hot! We'll take about different habitats and animals, especially those living in our part of the country.

February 22-23 will be a sharing day. Children may bring an animal (stuffed or plastic) and we'll try to determine its habitat.

February 27-29 ~ Field Trip Prep

We'll talk about our upcoming field trip to the Bell Museum and what we'll see there (not bells!).

March 1 & 2 ~ Field Trip to Bell Museum

More information to come!

Books Read Aloud in January:

What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile? by Judy Sierra

Jump Into January by Stella Blackstone

The Snow Globe Family by Jane O'Connor

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

Stranger in the Woods by Carl Sams & Jean Stoick

(we also watched the video)

*Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

The Giant Hug by Sandra Horning

I Know A Cold Lady by Lucinda Colandro

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

By Bill Martin (a flannel story)

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

By Bill Martin

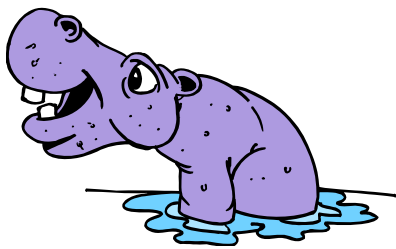
*A Very Special Critter by Gina & Mercer Mayer

*Denotes books read on Fridays only.

Songs and Fingerplays

What Can Make A Hippopotamus Smile?

What can make a hippopotamus smile?
What can make her walk for more than a mile?
Not a party or paper hats,
Or cake or candy that could make her fat.
That's not what hippos do!
They ooze in the gooze without any shoes.
They wade in the water 'til their lips turn blue.
And that's what makes a hippopotamus smile!



I See the Moon

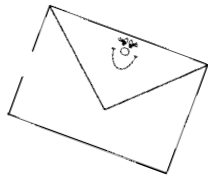
I see the moon, the moon sees me -
Over the mountains, over the sea.
Please let the light that shines on me -
Shine on the ones I love.

The Little Turtle

There was a little turtle,
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle,
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow,
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito,
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow,
But he didn't catch me!

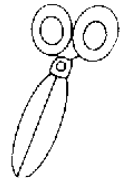


Mail Myself to You

I'm gonna wrap myself in paper.
I'm gonna dab myself with glue.
Stick some stamps on top of my head ~
I'm gonna mail myself to you!

Snippety-Snip (rhyme)

Snippety-snip my scissors go,
Cutting paper to and fro.
Making a big red heart to be
A valentine for you from me!



The Workshop

(a rhyme)

Let's go down to the workshop
and see what they're building today.

Someone is hammering nails -
Boom, boom, boom, boom
Boom, boom, boom, boom.

Someone is cutting wood -
Sega, saga, sega, saga,
Sega, saga, sega, saga.

Someone is drilling holes -
Brrrm, brrrm, brrrm, brrrm
Brrrm, brrrm, brrrm, brrrm.

Ring the bell, day is done,
Work has stopped for everyone.



Little Skunk Song

Oh I stuck my head in a little skunk's hole,
And the little skunk said, "Well bless my soul!"
Take it out, take it out, take it out, take it out.

Remove it!

Well I didn't take it out and the little skunk
said,

If you don't take it out, you'll wish you had!
Take it out, take it out, take it out.

Remove it!

Psst....

I removed it.

(plug nose) Too late!



News from Mrs. Sachs & Mrs. Schlawin

5's class

We certainly enjoyed seeing many of you at Parent Day last month! The children were so excited about sharing their school with you. We look forward to having many of you visit again as “helpers” in the coming months. If you are interested, please check the sign-up sheets outside our classroom door.

January 31 - February 2 ~ Field Trip Preparation

Our activities and discussions will be based on the story “Llama, Llama, Red Pajama” by Anna Dewdney. We will prepare the children for our trip to Stages Theatre to see the play on Wednesday, February 1. Children should arrive at 11:15 a.m. and we will return at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 2 will be Pajama Day! Children should wear pajamas to school and may bring a favorite bedtime doll or stuffed animal for story time if they wish.

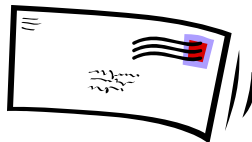


February 7-9 ~ Valentine's Day Fun

We have many different feelings and all of them are a wonderful part of who we are. We will focus on feelings, especially everyone's favorites - happiness... and love!

February 14-16 ~ Communication

We'll be learning about various ways to communicate with each other - by mail, telephone, computer, sign language...through music, art, dance, etc.



We will be asking that you send a self-addressed (to your family), stamped envelope early this week - you can expect to receive something fun in the mail!



February 14: Valentine Party!

Children may bring valentines for their friends and wear valentine colors!



February 21-23 ~ Exploring the Desert

The desert is an amazing habitat that most of the children have never experienced.

We'll learn about the land, the weather and the amazing creatures that live there.



Thursday, February 23 will be a

Sharing Day. A note will be sent home with more information.

February 28-March 1 ~ Wild West

Howdy Pardner! We're heading out west in search of longhorn cattle and rodeo action. We'll also learn about armadillos, rattlesnakes and life in the old west.



Books Read Aloud in January:

Horton Hears A Who by Dr. Seuss
One Winter's Day by M. Christina Butler
The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett
Way Up in the Arctic by Jennifer Ward
When It Starts To Snow by Phillis Gershator
Jump Into January by Stella Blackstone
Smitten by David Gordon

My Buddy by Aubrey Osofsky
What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile by Judy Sierra
Antarctic Antics by Judy Sierre
(we also watched the DVD)
Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

Songs and Fingerplays

“A” Is for Alice (another favorite letter song)

A is for Alice
Who met an alligator
Swishing down the alleyway
On Apple Avenue.

“Shoo” said Alice,
“I’m allergic to all gators.”
Ah choo! Ah choo!
Off she flew!



The Love Bug (a rhyme)

It begins with a grin and turns to a giggle
You start to laugh and your legs start to wiggle.
You look all around for someone to hug.
What can you do? You’ve caught the love bug!
ACHOOO!

The Mailman (tune: *My Bonnie Lies Over the Mountain*)

The mailman is coming towards my house
How heavy his bag seems to be!
I see lots of cards and am hoping
A valentine’s in there for me.

Please have, please have
A valentine is there for me, for me.
Please have, please have
A valentine in there for me.



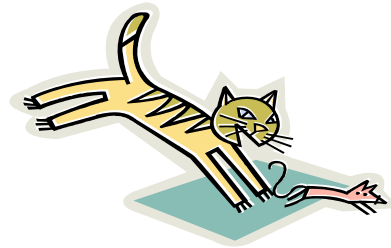
The Old Gray Cat (fast/slow song)

The old gray cat is sleeping, sleeping,
sleeping
The old gray cat is sleeping in the house.

The little mouse is creeping, creeping,
creeping
The little mouse is creeping in the house.

(Cat wakes up!)

The little mouse is scurrying, scurrying,
scurrying
The little mouse is scurrying through the
house!!



Sally The Camel (song)

Sally, the camel, has 5 humps,
Sally, the camel, has 5 humps,
Sally, the camel, has 5 humps,
So ride, Sally, ride!
Boom, Boom, Boom.

Continue -

Sally the camel has 4 humps,
Sally the camel has 3 humps,
Sally the camel has 2 humps,
Sally the camel has 1 hump,
Sally the camel has no humps,
Now Sally is a horse!

News from Mrs. Menk & Mrs. Riopel

Thank you to all for joining us on "Take Your Parent(s) to School Day." We hope you enjoyed the activities and seeing your child involved at preschool. As you witnessed, each day is a fun, hands-on learning day.

February will start off with reader sign-up. Please check the bulletin board outside our door for dates and times. This is an informal time to sit in the classroom and read to the children in the book corner for the first 30 minutes of our class time.

Have an extra friendly February! Thanks for sharing your children with us!

January 30 - February 3 ~ Day & Night are Opposites

Some people work all day. Some people work all night. We'll learn why we need sleep and experiment with shadow and light. We will also discuss other opposites.

Pajama & Teddy Bear Day—Thursday, Feb. 2 & Friday, Feb. 3. Your child may wear pajamas to school and bring a favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal. We'll be making our own pizzas for snack! We will need a volunteer the first hour of class on those days to help the children make their pizzas. See your child's teacher if interested.

February 6-14~ Feelings and Valentines

We will discover that we have many emotions and that they can change often. We will discuss how what we do and how we do things can show others how we are feeling. The room will be full of excitement as we do valentine activities and celebrate friendships.



February 13-14 ~ Valentine Parties

MWF a.m. class, please bring 10 signed valentines for school friends. TTH a.m. and TWTH p.m. classes, please bring 20 signed valentines.

February 15-17 ~ Transportation

This week we'll discover how to get from one place to another. We'll take an imaginary trip using different means of transportation.



February 20 ~ NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)

February 21-March 2 ~ Animal Habitats

In preparation for our field trip to the Bell Museum, we will talk about animals that are native to Minnesota. We will explore their habits and their habitats.

March 1-2 ~ Field Trip to Bell Museum of Natural History (9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

More information to come!

Books Read Aloud in January

Happy New Year, Pooh! by Kathleen Zoehfeld

Day is Done by Peter Yarrow

Caps for Sale by E. Slobo Kina

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins

Snow Globe Family by Jane O'Connor

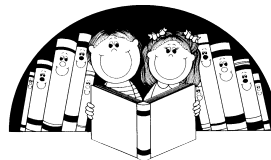
The Wild Toboggan Ride by Susan Reid

Dazzle The Dinosaur by Marcus Pfister

*The Mitten Tree by Candace Christiansen

Can I Have a Stegosaurus, Please?

by Lois Gambling



Sneezy the Snowman by Maureen Wright

*Danny and the Dinosaur by Sid Hoff

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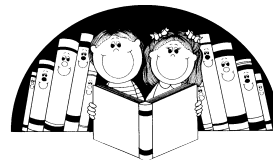
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Can I Have a Stegosaurus, Please?

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Sneezy the Snowman by Maureen Wright

*Danny and the Dinosaur by Sid Hoff

*Denotes books read on Wednesdays only.

Songs and Fingerplays

Will You Be A Friend of Mine?

(tune: "London Bridge")

Will you be a friend of mine,
Friend of mine, friend of mine?
Will you be a friend of mine,
And send a valentine?

Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,
Friend of yours, friend of yours ~
Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,
And send a valentine!



Sally the Swinging Snake

Chorus:
Sally the swinging snake,
She does the shimmy shake.
She love to rock and roll,
Feels that rhythm in her soul.



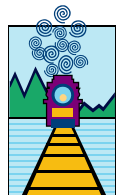
Sally can you swing from side to side?
Oh, my, yes I can!
Sally can you stretch out long and tight?
Oh, my, yes I can!
Sally can you curl up in a ball?
Sally can you jump up high and fall?
(repeat chorus)

The Big Train

Choo, Choo! The big train is coming
down the track.

Choo, Choo! The big train is coming
down the track.

Stop,
Look,
and Listen!
Stop, Look,
and Listen!



Choo, Choo! The big train is coming
down the track.

Poem

Valentines, Valentines ~
How many do you see?
Valentines, Valentines ~
Count them with me.
One for father,
One for mother,
One for grandma, too.
One for sister,
One for brother,
And here is one for you!

An Airplane

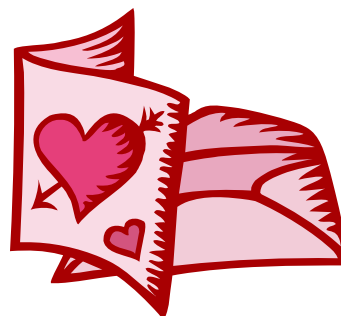
An airplane has great big wings,
Its propeller spins and sings.

Vroom! Vroom!

An airplane goes up.

An airplane goes down.

An airplane flies over the town.



News from Mrs. Hansen & Mrs. Hardies

January has been a fun and snowy month in our classroom! Fishing for numbers, ice skating on wax paper, having a sock snowball fight, icebergs in the sensory table, and sharing a picnic snack with our bears were just a few of our favorite activities.

We read many books in January:

Where Is Bear? by Marjorie Dennis Murray
Goldilocks & The 3 Bears by Paul Galdone
I Love Snow by Cynthia Rathman
Count Your Way - Number Nursery
Teddy's Snowy Day by Ian Beck
One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root
The Magical Snowman by Catherine Walters
How Many Bugs In A Box by David Carter
Count The Way Little Brown Bear
by Jonathan London
Bear's First Winter by Stephan Krensky

A Pocket for Corduroy by Don Freeman
Sneezy the Snowman by Maureen Wright
Duck On A Bike by David Shannon
Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathon London
Penguins Big Surprise by Susie Jenkin Pearce
Big Book: I Love Snow by Cynthia Rothman
Giraffes' Can't Dance by Giles Andreae
Miss Moo Goes to the Zoo by Kelly Graves
Little Gorilla by Ruth Bornstein
Animal Strike at the Zoo by Karma Wilson
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin
& John Archambault

January 30 - February 3 ~ Letters

Many children are showing an interest in letters and in writing their names. We will capitalize on this interest with alphabet games, songs, puzzles and other fun activities. We will go on a letter hunt in our classroom and review the letters in our names.



February 6-10 ~ Be My Valentine

Our week will be filled with hearts! We will discuss why we make and send valentines. Caring and love will be some of the feelings we'll talk about this week.

Our Valentine Parties will be Feb.10 (Fri. a.m. class), Feb.13 (Mon. a.m. class) and Feb.14 (TTH a.m. & p.m. classes). Please bring signed Valentines to give to our classroom friends. (Do not address the envelopes to the individual children.) Also, on these days **wear something purple or pink (or red)!**

February 13-17 ~ Shapes

We will be having fun with shapes. We will sing songs, play games, and read books about shapes. We will also use shapes in our art projects.



February 20 ~ NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)

February 21-February 24 ~ Senses

This week we will discuss our 5 senses. We will explore texture by playing a touch and feel guessing game. We will also listen to different sounds and will use our eyes to look around the room.

"Take Your Parent(s) to School Days" are February 22 (Wednesday a.m. class), February 23 (Thursday a.m. & p.m. classes) and February 24 (Friday a.m. class). Your child will be excited to share his/her day at Grace Preschool with you.

Please plan to join us for some fun! Note the abbreviated day:

AM classes 9-10:30 a.m.

PM class 1-2:30 p.m.

February 27-March 2 ~ Health & Nutrition

We will be talking about foods that are good for us and help us to grow. Our housekeeping area will be turned into a grocery store where the children can shop to their hearts' delight!

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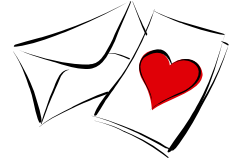
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Songs and Fingerplays



Five Little Valentines

(tune: "Five Little Ducks")



Five little valentines I once knew -
All lined up for us to view.
But the valentine that rhymes with {ink},
That is my favorite! It's the color {pink},
Color {pink}, color {pink}.
That is my favorite! It's the color {pink}.
Continue with the following: bed-red; shoe-blue; light-white; bean-green.

Eyes, Ears, Nose and Mouth

(tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Eyes, ears, nose and mouth.
Theses are parts of me!
Arms and legs and elbows, too!
And don't forget my knee!

Wash your Hands

(tune: "Yankee Doodle")

Wash your hands before you eat.
Wash those germs away.
Use soap and water; rinse them off.
You'll have clean hands today.



Soap your hands and rub, rub, rub!
Wash those germs away.
Rinse your hands with water; pat them dry.
You'll have clean hands today!

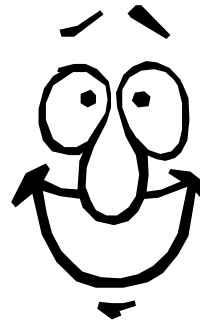
My Valentine

(tune: "London Bridges")

Will you be my valentine,
valentine, valentine?
Will you be my valentine?
Be a friend of mine.

Senses

Two little eyes to look around.
Two little ears to hear each sound.
One little nose to smell what's sweet.
One little mouth that likes to eat.



If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands. (2x)
If you're happy and you know it then your face will surely show it,
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

Verse 2: If you're sad and you know it wipe your eyes. . . .

Verse 3: If you're mad and you know it stomp your feet

Verse 4: If you're tired and you know it give a yawn