

CO-OP CAPERS

The Newsletter of the Williamsburg Parent Cooperative Preschool



CALENDAR

February	5	M	Registration Deadline for current Co-ops
	12	M	Registration Deadline for former Co-ops
	19	M	Registration Deadline for new families
	22-23	R, F	NO SCHOOL / VAECE Conference in Norfolk
March	11	Su	Probable Pizza and Pajama Night

REMINDER: the Square 1 Art deadline is Tuesday, February 27th.
For questions, contact Molly Gareis at 229-5619.



BOOK GROUP MEETING

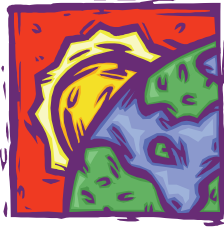
Interested in a little grown-up conversation? The Second Tuesday Book Group meets (you guessed it) the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library, and it is looking for new members. The group reads an eclectic mixture of fact and fiction (but more fiction). For more info, contact Co-op mom Juliana Smith at 258-9273.

DONATIONS FOR CARNIVAL BOOK SALE

Save your used books for the book sale at the carnival, coming in May. We will be collecting children's and parenting books in early April—check the center room for a cardboard box to place your donations. Thank You!
(For more information contact Heather Sasinowska, 259-7341)

FAMILY OUTING EVENT

If you are looking for a way to celebrate President's Day weekend, consider "Founding Mother: A Conversation with the Young Martha Washington" on Sunday, February 18 in the Hennage Auditorium at the DeWitt Wallace Gallery in Colonial Williamsburg. The program is free to those with a Good Neighbor Pass. Because space is limited, reservations are required (and free). Call 1-800-HISTORY.



EARTH CORNER

More than 15 million people live in the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. Each one lives only a few minutes from one of the 100,000 streams and rivers that feed the Bay.

Each time a citizen turns on a light, washes the dishes, drives a car, takes out the trash, fertilizes the lawn, changes the oil or walks a dog, a chain of events occurs that can affect local waterways and the Bay.

As we all get ready to think about Spring lawn maintenance and landscaping, planting and mowing, here are some simple ways to prepare to cut nutrient and sediment pollution around our home. (For more information see www.chesapeakebay.net)

- Pump out septic tanks regularly, every 3-5 years.
- Pick up and dispose of pet litter. Pet waste contains bacteria and nutrients that can wash into storm drains and into streams affecting water quality.
- Use environmentally friendly landscaping techniques that require less fertilizer, prevent erosion, and utilize native plants. This helps prevent sediments and nutrients, which harm bay grasses, from reaching Bay waters.
- Conserve water by gardening with native plants that require less water than annual, tropical ornamentals. Use kitchen rinse water for watering plants. Overloading at sewage treatment plants can cause overflows of raw sewage and debris into waterways, especially during heavy rains.
- Plant Grasses for Masses – attend a workshop and learn how to get started growing (not mowing) these grasses in your home or office. Contact the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](http://www.chesapeakebay.net) at 800-445-5572, and ask for the restoration coordinator.
- Reduce household food waste by cooking only the amount that will be eaten and recycle non-meat/non-fat leftovers to a compost pile. Using garbage disposals for compostable food waste consumes unnecessary electricity, overtaxes septic and sewage systems, eliminates a natural source for replenishing soil and contributes to excess nutrients in Bay tributaries.
- Use phosphate free products. Check labels on household products before you buy. Try non-toxic alternative products.
- Drain rain gutter downspouts into gravel or grassy areas to increase adsorption and decrease runoff.
- Use integrated pest management techniques and non-



BOOK REVIEW



Random House Children's Books, ISBN 009992790X

Recommended by Susan Axtell, and quite suitable for the love month of February, Dogger is the winner of the 1977 Kate Greenaway Medal and the 1980 Dutch Silver Pencil Award. This is the story of Dave and his beloved Dogger and how Dogger was lost and finally found again.

WINTER DAYS INSIDE SEEM ENDLESS?

Feeling like a rotten parent for putting on the TV for hours at a time? Tired of watching the same videos over and over? Want something new for a change? Here are some fun, time-flying ideas to beat those winter blues:



- Polish pennies! Soak them in white vinegar and then rub them with salt and an old rag. Who wouldn't be proud of sparkly new money?
- Make puppets from coloring book pictures or stencils! Color, cut out, and tape to popsicle sticks and have a puppet show from behind a chair or couch.
- Play post office! Save junk mail and fliers, round up some stickers and markers and you have productive post office personnel.
- Make a winter scrapbook! Glue one envelope flap to the bottom flap of another until you have as many pages as you'd like. Let the kids decorate the outside. Put photos or drawing inside the envelopes, write notes and funny sayings on the inside of the envelopes.



- Bring books to life! Make a book-inspired craft, play a book-inspired game, cook a recipe from food in a story, create a mask or picture of a character, and/or find books from the library with the same theme or by the same author.



Some Valentine ideas for your
Moms, Dads, friends
and even you!



Make a Valentine Holder

Take 2 paper plates, folded in half, and insert one into the other to make a heart shape. Staple together. Punch a hole in the top and thread enough ribbon through to hang from a door knob or hook. Let your child decorate the outside and they have a neat way to hold all the lovely valentines they receive this year.

Valentine, You Broke the Mold

For a fun, non-sugary way to celebrate the friends you love, have your child help you make heart Crayons. Simply take heart molds, insert broken crayons of various colors, and place in a 250 degree oven for 10-15 minutes. Let cool and pop out of the molds. You could even add some Valentine coloring pages to the gift bag.

Looking for some fun read-aloud books for Valentine's Day? Here are some enjoyable titles:

It's Valentine's Day, editor Jack Prelutsky (1986). A collection of fourteen poems devoted to Valentine's Day.

Little Mouse's Big Valentine, Thacher Hurd (1991). Little Mouse creates a humongous Valentine that's so large, no one else wants it. Little Mouse searches for someone to receive his giant Valentine and finds a friend.

Pucker Up Buttercup, Simon Davies (2000). Bright appealing illustrations and rhyming text around the subject of kisses will appeal to preschoolers and older siblings alike.

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, Eileen Spinelli (1996). Mundane Mr. Hatch lives a humdrum, lonely existence, until one day he receives a huge Valentine candy heart with a note, "Somebody loves you". Find out how a surprise gift transforms the lives of Mr. Hatch and his neighbors.

The Valentine Bears, Even Bunting (2004). This sweet story is of two bears who have always missed Valentine's Day because they are hibernating and this year they have lavish preparations to celebrate their first Valentine's Day.

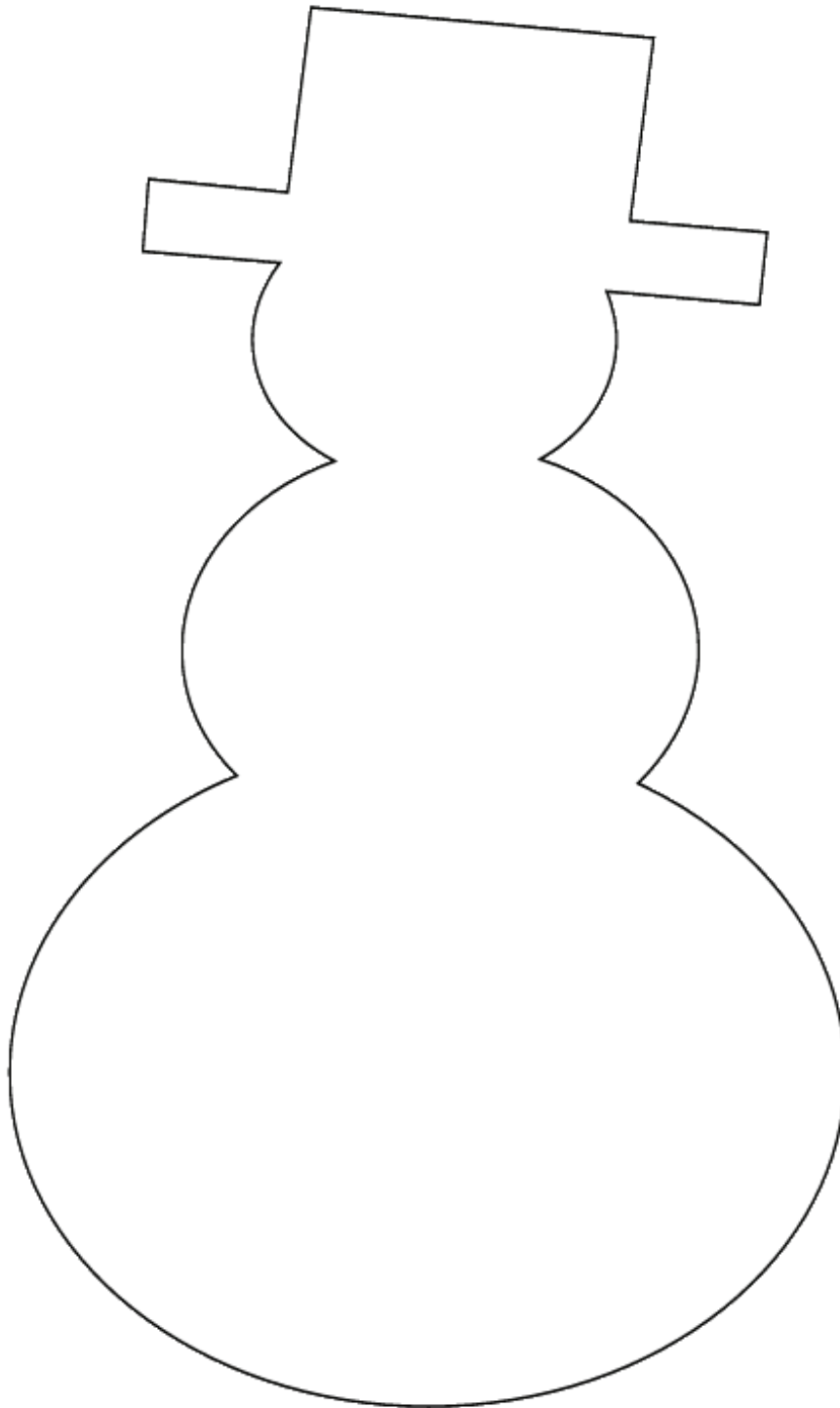
—contributed by Susan Thacker-Gwaltney



Happy Valentine's Day!



Let's Remember the snow of February 1, 2007
since there wasn't enough to make a real snow person!



Crafty Kids: Winter Fun

Materials:

Colored poster board
Cotton Balls
Blue construction paper
Epson salt
Chalk
Glue

Use the pattern to your left to cut out snow people from the poster board. Mix some Epson salt with water and paint the mixture on the poster board (this creates a snow effect when dried). When the snow people have dried, affix to construction paper and draw snowflakes on the construction paper with chalk, using the cotton balls to create hills or forts of snow.