

PARENT TIMES



Nov. 2011 Vol. 37 No. 2

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Thank You!

First and foremost, we could not exist but for the very generous help from our sponsors.

A huge thank you to:

Arcadia Dental Arts/
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Arizona Childproofers

Christ Church School

Treeline Design Group, Inc.

And two new sponsors:

Verve Studio

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Happy Fall Y'all!

We are so **THANKFUL** for everything that is happening in NCPG!

Our membership continues to grow...thank you to all of you who have brought a friend to class. The enthusiasm of our members is our best advertisement, so please keep spreading the word! Remember that guests can try a class for free at any time and membership rates are pro-rated for the remainder of the year. Contact our Membership Co-Directors, Nicole Wood and Stephanie Davenport at membership@ncpgaz.org for more information.

We have had lots of fun special events...and there are more to come! We had an amazing Moms' Night Out in September, followed up by a family Halloween Party. Now, our Special Event Co-Directors, Tricia Rochford and Marci Saucier, are back at it with yet another fabulous Moms' Night Out. Light appetizers will be provided by NCPG. We hope you will join us!

Fundraising is off and running...with over 115 Care Cards and Artistic Impressions by Mara photo packages sold. Our Fundraising Co-Directors, Lisa Barnes and Courtney Konderik, are just getting started! Any member who owns her own business is invited to participate in the **Member Business Fair** on Wednesday, December 7th from 8:45- 9:45 am. Your "entry fee" is a donation to our Corks for Kids auction. Email lisasbarnes@cox.net for more information.

We are seeking members' feedback...as this is YOUR organization! We want to hear what you have to say, so please remember to take our annual **Fall Teacher Evaluation** online. If you're looking to get involved, we still need a Communications Co-Director!

And, most importantly, we are thankful for **YOU**, our wonderful NCPG members!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jen Burns and Melissa Eustice



smile



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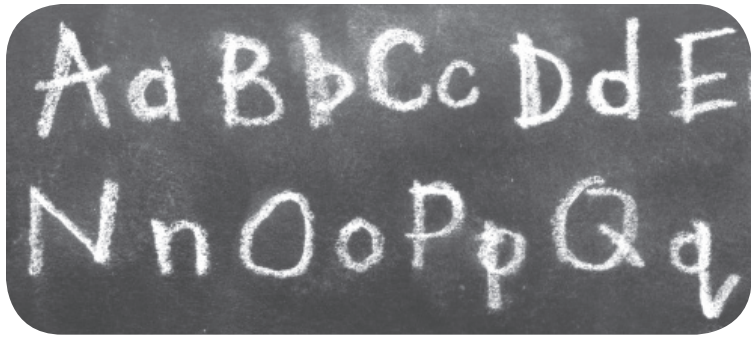
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The ABCs of Gratitude

An A to Z Guide to Giving Thanks

by Holly Lebowitz Rossi, Parents.com

Inspire your kids to be creative when sharing what they're grateful for this Thanksgiving. From the everyday to the extraordinary, our A-to-Z list of 26 gratitude-worthy things will make your kids realize how full and fun their lives truly are. Sit down with your kids to explore our list, then build on it by creating your own ABCs of Gratitude. Share it with teachers at your kids' school so they can create a Thanksgiving lesson plan. Better yet, go around the Thanksgiving table and take turns contributing a word for each letter until everyone is fully grateful, from A to Z.

A Is for Animals

We human beings inhabit this planet in the company of some pretty amazing creatures, from the fuzzy to the slimy to the towering to the teensy-beansy. You might be most grateful for the companionship of a beloved furry, scaly, or feathered family pet, but don't forget the fascinating animals of yore (T-Rex, anyone?), the mythological beasts from legends (hello, unicorns), and the spectacular creatures that live only in your imagination.

Talk About It: What is your favorite animal?

B Is for Best Friends

Some friendships have that special "forever" vibe about them. You know how to count on each other through thick and thin, from the playground to the backyard, which is a rare quality and wonderful gift. It's a beautiful thing to call a bud "best friend" and know that you're a "best friend," too. Take this opportunity to say "thank you" for the magical bond you share!

Talk About It: What do you love about your best friends?

C Is for Cars

Sure, there are some pretty cool toy cars out there that make for quality playtime, but take a moment to say "thank you" for real cars -- the ones that take you to friends' houses for fun playdates, to soccer practice, to music lessons, to pizza parties, and sometimes to exciting places for vacations and new adventures. Don't forget to aim a little gratitude toward the drivers (Mom and Dad) of those cars!

Talk About It: What is your favorite place to drive in a car?

D Is for Dinnertime

Thanksgiving might be the ultimate meal of the year, but dinner is something you have every night. Think back on some recent dinners and share what made them stand out. Was it a delicious meal that featured all your favorite foods? A huge

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NCPG is a non-profit, non-denominational organization providing classes to parents of infant to pre-school age children.

www.ncpgaz.org

Like us on Facebook: NCPG



Newsletter design: Neill Fox, www.foxnoggin.com

continued on page 8

News & Events



Mom's Night Out!

Thursday, November 10th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Cave & Ives (located above Sacks Art of Sandwicherie), 4247 E. Indian School Road, Suite 102

This will be a lovely evening on the patio with great views and great company! Happy Hour pricing will be extended until 7:30 and NCPG will get the evening started with a few light appetizers!

November 12 - An Evening of Kindness (6-8 pm)

Benefitting MISS Foundation and honoring Maya and Ronan Thompson. www.aneveningofkindness.eventbrite.com

Dec. 7 - Member Business Fair (before class, 8:45-9:45)

Calling all NCPG business owners!!! Here is your chance to share your business with other NCPG members. There is no fee to participate, however you must donate something to our Corks for Kids auction. Email lisasbarnes@cox.net to reserve your table!

*** December Class Reminder ***

There is only one class in December. Morning class will be Dec 7 and evening Dec 14.

Plan some playdates with your fellow classmates!

Pilgrim Hat Cupcake Cones



Ingredients

- 1 frozen pound cake (12 oz.), thawed
- 10 ice cream cones
- 1 can (16 oz.) plus 1 cup chocolate frosting
- 10 chocolate cookies (4 in. each,)
- 3 rolls strawberry fruit leather
- 10 yellow spice drops

An extra box of cones may come in handy if any of the cones in the first box are not perfect.

Directions

1. Cut the pound cake into pieces that will fit into the cones. Press slightly to make the cake level with the top of the cone. Frost the top of the cones and invert them onto the cookies.
2. Place the cones on a wire rack over a jelly roll pan. Spoon the remaining chocolate frosting into a glass measuring cup. Heat the frosting in the microwave, stirring frequently until pourable, about 15 to 30 seconds. Pour the frosting over the top of each of the cones to cover. You may need to collect the drippings and reheat slightly to cover all of the cones. Let the cones stand for 1 hour or until set.
3. Cut the fruit leather into ten 7-inch lengths. Fold the candy in half lengthwise and wrap around the base of the cone. Trim the spice drop and press it onto the hat as a buckle.

TIP: Although these hats may be for dessert, they also make great place-card holders for a special meal. Older kids can write names on small index cards; younger kids can decorate them. You can lay the card on top of the hat, or stand it up on the cookie and lean it against the cone. Adorable!

New Arrivals!

Congratulations to ALL of the proud parents and families,
with a big welcome to the new additions to our NCPG family!



Anthony Herro
May 10, 2011

Parents: Cecelia & Anthony
Weight: 6 lbs 4 oz, Height: 20 1/2 inches



Cooper Thomas Lesselyong
May 23, 2011

Parents: Kristin & Frank, Big Brother: Jack
Weight: 8 lbs 10oz, Height: 21.5 inches



Joelle Shea Reifler
July 11, 2011

Parents: Stefanie & Larry, Brother: Jake
Weight: 8.3 lbs, Height: 21 inches



Sean Cosmas
August 11, 2011

Parents: Toni & David, Sibling: Ashten
Weight: 5 lbs 10 oz, Height: 17.5 inches



Madryn Wake Hatch
September 24, 2011

Parents: Reagan & Adam, Big Sister: Kaia
Weight: 6 lbs 11 oz, Height: 20 inches



Henry Martin Bragg
October 17, 2011

Parents: Krista & Tyler
Weight: 8 lbs 3.6 oz, Height: 20 inches

Education

Teacher Survey

Please participate and take our annual teacher survey through Survey Monkey. The survey is completely anonymous and takes only minutes. Your feedback helps make our classes better! You should have received an email with this link, but you can also type it in your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/teacherevalFall11>



Fundraising

SAVE THE DATE!

April 28, 2012 - Corks for Kids!

Corks for Kids, our annual couples' event and silent auction, will be on Saturday, April 28th at Phoenix Country Club.



Paperbag Turkey courtesy of MarthaStewart.com

This simple, popcorn-filled paper-bag turkey from "One Charming Party" crafter Sara Westbrook is a perfect centerpiece for a children's Thanksgiving table. If the popcorn is buttered or cooked in oil, use plastic bags or wax paper to line the paper bags.



1. To make the frills, cut a sheet of standard printer paper in half, lengthwise. Fold each half in half, lengthwise. Make small cuts with scissors or fringe scissors on folded edges to create loops.

2. To make the drumsticks, put your fist in each of the corners of a small paper bag and use your other flat hand to mold and round the edges. Fill bag 2/3 of the way to the top with popcorn. Gather the opening of the bag and twist tightly. Hot-glue the beginning of the length of frill and wrap it around the twisted part of the lunch bag; hot-glue the end of the frill to hold in place. Repeat to make a second drumstick.

3. For the turkey body, round the corners of a large paper shopping bag. Fill the bag with popcorn. Fold the sides of the bag in, and tuck the bottom edge under, using hot glue to secure the edge closed.

Tip: If you can't find a large plain brown bag, carefully turn a printed bag inside out.

4. Use hot glue to attach drumsticks to sides of turkey body. Place on platter and garnish with parsley, fruit, and corn-on-the-cob favors, if desired. For video and other ideas: www.marthastewart.com/286383/paper-bag-turkey



Things to Do This Fall



The Little Red Hen (Wed-Sun, Nov 16-27)

Sing-along show with lots of audience participation and a valuable message about cooperation. 10am Wed-Sat, 2pm Sat-Sun. \$8 adults, \$6 children, under 2 free. Reservations recommended.

Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W Latham St. 602-262-2050 or azpuppets.org.



Pumpkin Days and Fall Maze (through Nov 20)

Pumpkin patch, corn mazes (family-friendly and haunted), petting zoo, activities, train ride and hay pyramid. 9am-8pm Sun-Thur, 9am-11pm Fri-Sat. \$8 ages 2 & up; additional cost for special activities.

Tolmachoff Farms, 5726 N 75th Ave, Glendale. 623-386-1301 or tolmachoff-farms.com (\$2 off coupon)



If You Give a Pig a Party (Sat-Sun Nov 12-27)

Based on the popular children's book, the play follows the adventures of a darling pig and her lovable friends.

Presented by Phoenix Theatre's Cookie Company. 11am & 1:30pm Sat, 1pm Sun. \$11.50.

Greasepaint Theatre, 7020 E 2nd St, Scottsdale. 602-254-2151 or cookiecompany.org.



Annie Jr. (Nov 18-Dec 18, Fri-Sun)

The timeless tale of Little Orphan Annie, who yearns to be rescued from the orphanage. 7:30pm Fri-Sat, 1 & 3pm Sat-Sun. \$15 adults (\$12 advance) \$12 children.

Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre, 4720 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale. 480-483-1664 or desertstages.org.



Max & Ruby: Bunny Party (Sat Nov 26)

Join the bunny siblings as they sing and hop their way through planning a special event. 1 & 4pm. \$17 & up.

Comerica Theatre, 400 W Washington St. livenation.com.

Mariposa Monarca Monarch Butterfly Exhibit (through Nov 27)

Interpretive displays about the life cycle and migration patterns of the monarch butterfly, and the environmental threats and conservation efforts it faces. 9:30am-5pm. \$3.50 with paid admission; \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$10 ages 13-18, \$8 ages 3-12. *Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy. 480-941-1225 or dbg.org.*



The Power of Music: Photographic Portraits of Americans and Their Musical Instruments, 1860-1915 (through Nov 27)

Experience photographic accounts of an amazing age for musical transformation, taking place during the boom of the Industrial Revolution. 9am-5pm Mon-Wed & Sat, 9am-9pm Thur-Fri, 10am-5pm Sun. Included with admission: \$15 adults, \$10 ages 6-17, ages 5 & under free.

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd. 480-478-6000 or themim.org



Parent Movie Morning (through Nov 30)

Gives parents a chance to watch a current-run movie with their infants or toddlers. 10am. \$5.75.

UltraStar Cinemas, Scottsdale Pavilions, Loop 101 & Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale (480-278-7324) and Surprise Pointe, 13649 N Litchfield Rd, Surprise (623-584-3838). ultrastarmovies.com.



Big Bugs (through Jan 15)

All ages. David Roger's over-sized insect sculptures invade the garden. 8am-8pm. Included with admission: \$18 adults,

\$10 students, \$8 ages 3-12, ages 2 & under free.

Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy. 480-941-1225 or dbg.org



Real Pirates (through Jan 15)

More than 200 artifacts explore the perils and privileges of pirate life, recovered from the wreck of the Whydah. The first fully authenticated pirate ship ever to be discovered in U.S. waters. 10am-5pm. \$23 adults, \$21 seniors, \$18 ages 3-17; includes admission to the center.

Arizona Science Center, 600 E Washington St. 602-716-2000 or azscience.org

family laugh fest when you shared a funny story at the table? A surprise visit from a close friend or family member? Remember with gratitude that there's always food on the table -- and that great memories are served a la carte.

Talk About It: Share a recent dinnertime memory

E Is for Excellence

Oh, the pleasures of a job well done. Did you recently spend extra time on a school assignment and earn a top grade? Or did you finish a chore at home with extra care, which earned you high praise from Mom and Dad? Or was your music teacher amazed at how much your piano lessons improved (turns out those hours of practice were a good idea!)? Be grateful for the excellence you have achieved and for those who have recognized excellence in you.

Talk About It: What have you achieved recently?

F Is for Family

Lots of things change in life, but family is forever. Be thankful for the family members who have leading roles in the story of your life, from your parents and siblings to aunts, uncles, and cousins to Godparents to lifelong family friends who love you unconditionally and would do anything for you. Tell these special people you're grateful for a time they gave you advice, taught you a family secret, or just spent a great day together, laughing and relaxing as a family.

Talk About It: What makes your family special?

G Is for Grandparents

An old saying goes, "You can't know where you're going until you know where you've been." Your grandparents are a big part of your family's history, so take this chance to be thankful they raised your parents, set family goals and standards, and ensured that family wisdom survived within each generation. Even if your grandparents can't be with you at Thanksgiving, the holiday table is still a great place to hear stories about the times and places where they came from.

Talk About It: What have you learned from your grandparents?

H Is for Happy Birthdays

What fun it is to have a birthday! For one whole day, everyone piles good wishes (and gifts and cake!) on you, and you feel like the most special person in the world. How do you respond when someone wishes you a happy birthday or gives you a present or a card? You say "thank you," of course! Think back on your most recent birthday and appreciate those who took the time to share the celebrations. Also, remember gratefully all the fun you had celebrating other friends' and family members' birthdays.

Talk About It: What was the best part of your last birthday?

I Is for Ice Cream

On a hot day, we all scream for cool and creamy ice cream -- whether it's chocolate, vanilla, or bubblegum flavor. On a cone, covered in yummy hot fudge in a sundae, or sandwiched between delicious cookies, ice cream is an unforgettable treat -- and for this it deserves heartfelt thanks.

Talk About It: What is your favorite way to eat ice cream?

J Is for Jokes

Why did the chicken cross the road? It doesn't really matter, as long as the punch line made you or someone else laugh. From knock-knock jokes to tongue twisters to rollicking riddles, anything that induces giggles, snickers, and a laugh-out-loud "Ha-ha!" deserves your gratitude. After all, how boring would life be without laughter?

Talk About It: What made you laugh today?

K Is for Kites

The inspirational author Dan Zadra wrote, "I made you a kite so you would have to look up." It's true that kites invite imaginations to soar. When there's a colorful kite whipping and diving against a clear, breezy sky, we can't help but be amazed by -- and grateful for -- things we can let fly into the wind, as well as all the things that keep our feet firmly rooted to the ground.

Talk About It: If you were to make a kite, what would it look like?

L Is for Learning

Not all learning happens in school, although your homework load might suggest otherwise. The ability to acquire new skills, from knitting to magic tricks to scoring a goal to memorizing spelling words, means a great big "thank you" for your teachers, tutors, and coaches. Even more gratifying? When you finally "get" something you never thought you could learn -- such as long division!

Talk About It: What would you like to learn more about?

M Is for Making Things

A cozy sofa cushion fort. A beaded necklace. A colorful collage. A pan of fudgy brownies. These are only some of the things you might have made recently with your own two hands. Didn't it feel good to start and finish something that interested you, something that you imagined, then turned into reality? Give thanks for your creative and artistic spirit and for all it has inspired you to make.

Talk About It: What have you made recently?

N Is for Nature

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better," said scientist Albert Einstein. Think about all the natural beauty you got to see this year -- a tall and majestic mountain, a beach full of seashells, a strong and silent forest, a unique tree you pass on your way to school, or a garden your family cultivated to bring more nature to your backyard. How lucky are you to live in such a beautiful world?

Talk About It: What is your favorite natural space?

O Is for Opportunities

Sometimes, opportunities can disappear as fast as they come. So be thankful for those moments when you seized the chance to do something exciting, new, and fun -- such as the time you overcame your fear of heights by riding the big roller coaster. How about your decision to sign up for the spelling bee? Or the moment you introduced yourself to someone who became a best friend? These are all smart opportunities that you recognized!

Talk About It: What opportunities have you grabbed lately?

P Is for Popcorn

What do you think of when you get a whiff of fresh popcorn? Fun outings to the movie theater or cozy evenings with the family in front of a great show or movie? Say "thank you" to popcorn for having the power to make you feel instantly happy and relaxed -- not to mention less hungry. Plus, popcorn is a low-calorie, high-fiber, whole grain snack -- which means it keeps you healthy, for which your parents can be thankful, too!

Talk About It: What other healthy foods make you feel good?

Q Is for Questions

"Why" might be the most productive word in the English language. Why? Because questions open doors to knowledge, new perspectives, and deeper thoughts -- even if you don't get any immediate answers. Asking questions shows that you are a good and curious observer of the world

around you. So keep on asking why the sky is blue, why spiders have eight legs, or why your sister chose to play the clarinet, and be grateful for your inquisitive instinct.

Talk About It: What questions have you asked lately?

R Is for Reading

What activity can take you back in time, out into space, off to magical lands, and away on fantastical adventures? Reading, of course! Give thanks for your favorite books and stories, the ones that draw you in again and again and again. Think happily about how libraries and bookstores are brimming with books for you to keep discovering. Which of them are destined to become your lifelong favorites? Go find out!

Talk About It: What is your all-time favorite book?

S Is for Songs

Every song carries its own special feeling, from the pride of "The Star Spangled Banner" to the winter fun of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." When we sing, alone or in a group, we let our voices get loud and loose, and we express ourselves freely and boldly in a whole new way. Say (or sing!) "thank you" for the songs that make you turn up the radio, lull you into a gentle, peaceful night's sleep, and allow you to laugh with friends or family around the fireplace or campfire.

T Is for Treats

Treats come in many forms, from an after-dinner piece of cake to the goodies you collect on Halloween. But treats aren't always sugary desserts to chew on -- treats can also be a stop at the playground on the way home from school, a movie with your parents on a school night, or discovering that a fantastic surprise has arrived in the mail. Be grateful for how treats have sweetened your life in more ways than one!

Talk About It: What treats have sweetened your life recently?

U Is for Umbrellas

An umbrella is one of those everyday items you forget about if you don't remember how much it helps you. On stormy and wet days, your umbrella is a cozy rain repellent and personal protector. If you have a colorful or patterned one, your umbrella might also be a cheerful way to brighten up a gray and gloomy day. So next time you take a walk in the rain, be grateful for your very own storm shield!

Talk About It: What would your perfect umbrella look like?

V Is for Vacation

What a happy word "vacation" is -- it conjures up feelings of freedom from school and regular routines. Whether your vacations were in far-off, exotic destinations or right in your hometown this year, think thankfully on the chances you have to take a break and step away from the everyday. Vacation time is family time, so you probably created great family memories to keep alongside the terrific souvenirs you collected. Remember, sometimes the best part about a vacation is being excited to return home refreshed and to tackle the ordinary routines you wanted to escape.

Talk About It: What is your most fun vacation memory?

W Is for Wishes

Have you ever wished upon a star, made a wish over flickering birthday candles, or tossed a penny into a fountain? You've probably had a quiet moment this year to think about something special you would like to add to your life. Wishes have a magical quality -- they lead to dreams and dreams lead to actions that make dreams come true. As you say "thank you" for all the wishes you made this year, think about what your heart really wants today, and don't hesitate to wish for it.

Talk About It: What are you wishing for today?

X Is for Xylophone

Just as "X" is a unique, seldom-used letter, the xylophone is a special, different kind of musical instrument (not to mention a darn fun word to say out loud!). The xylophone is probably the first musical instrument (other than a wooden spoon banging against a pot or pan) that you learned to play. With its colorful bars and soft, round mallets, the happy music that children of any age can make is definitely worthy of your gratitude.

Talk About It: Have you ever played a xylophone?

Y Is for Your Special Place

Everyone needs a private place to relax and reflect without the distractions of ringing phones, chattering sisters or brothers, or parents carrying chore lists. Where is that place for you? Give thanks for your bedroom where your own clothes, toys, books, and cozy bed await. Or be grateful for a tree house, a secret corner of your playroom, or a favorite chair that is always around when you need quiet time in your very own space.

Talk About It: What is your special place?

Z Is for Zoo

Be honest -- would you have ever had the chance to get close to an elephant without zoos? Your local zoo, in addition to being a living classroom where you can learn about animals (remember, A is for animals!) you never heard of, is a passport to parts of the world where these incredible creatures dwell. So zoos deserve our thanks, both for what they can teach us and for the ways they preserve and protect the animals who live safely in their care.

Talk About It: What is your favorite thing to see at the zoo?

WINNER! WINNER!

- Congratulations to **Megan Reed**, who won our Bring A Friend Day raffle. She won a photo package to Artistic Impressions by Mara.
- Congratulations to Jennifer Rutledge, who won our Care Card raffle. Her prize was an apron and classes at ARTcadia Studio.

Thank you to ALL of our members who participated in bringing friends and selling Care Cards!
We couldn't do it without you!



Christ Church School

Christ Church School

"An Education Enriched by Faith"

November is filled with opportunities for interested parents to see what Christ Church School has to offer:

November 9th- **Open House** 9:30 am-11:30 am

Tour our campus, see our classrooms and meet some of our CCS families

November 16th- **Treats & Treasures** 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Come lend your support to our school as well as local businesses during this shopping extravaganza. Vendors will set up in our Parish Hall.

November 30th- **Elementary Information Night** 6:30 pm

This is your chance to hear about the exciting programs offered for the 2012-2013 school year. Enrollment will be extended to include 2nd grade- don't miss this informative event.



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Now Enrolling!

The logo for Perennials, a children's boutique. It features the word "PERENNIALS" in a large, serif font, with the tagline "A Children's Boutique. In Full Bloom" below it. The text is framed by a decorative border of various flowers and leaves. Below the tagline, it says "RECYCLE, RENEW, REPURPOSE" and provides contact information: "http://www.facebook.com/PerennialsBoutique", "602-954-2056", and "3748 E. Indian School Rd. • Phoenix, Arizona 85018".

PERENNIALS
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NCPG Halloween Party 2011

Our little ghosts and goblins enjoyed the fall festivities at Christ Church School!

