



# Heartworks Burlington Newsletter December 2011



## Parent/Teacher Conferences

We hope you enjoyed meeting with your child's teacher to learn about the progress that has been made since the beginning of the year and to share any additional goals you may have for your child. The teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and share their news of your child's successes.



### In This Issue:

Conferences	1
Monthly Themes	1
Calendar of Events	2
Recycled Items	2
School Closings/Delays	2
Mailboxes	2
School Website	2
Extra Clothing	3
Enrichment Time	3
School Snack	4
Winter Performances	4
NAEYC News	4

## December Classroom Themes:

*Celebrations from  
Around the World*

This theme teaches the children that there are many different holidays celebrated during winter and each one is special and unique. The children will learn about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, Saint Nicholas Day, and St. Lucia Day.

## January Classroom Themes:

*The school-wide theme for January will be  
Teacher Choice...*

The two year old class with Amanda:  
Famous Authors: Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, and  
Leo Lionni

The two/three year old class with Susan:  
Author Study: Jan Brett

The three year old class with Michelle:  
The Alphabet

The three/four year old class with Ashley:  
Dinosaurs

Pre-Kindergarten with Heather:  
Vermont Agriculture and Farming

Pre-Kindergarten with Nicole:  
Geology



## December Calendar of Events

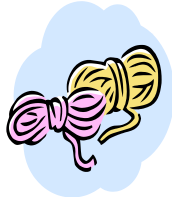
- December 15th ~ School closes at 3:00 for The Pre-Kindergarten Winter Performance
- December 15th ~ Winter Performance for the two Pre-Kindergarten classes; please see the additional information in this newsletter on page 4
- December 21st – January 2nd ~ No School ~ Holiday Recess

## January Calendar of Events

- January 3rd ~ Classes Resume
- January 16th ~ School closed in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### **Recycled Items Needed:**

For a special project during our winter holidays celebration, glass baby food jars with lids are needed. In addition, before tossing out the following items, please feel free to bring them to school for various creative uses: buttons, fabric scraps, tissue paper, magnets, paper plates, paper bags, ribbons, yarn, raffia, corks, twine, and wooden beads. Thank you!



### **School Closings due to Weather**

In the event of snow or inclement weather, Heartworks may close for the day, or delay opening. Here are a few places to look or listen for school closing information.

\*Many radio and television stations broadcast this information on an ongoing basis.

\*You may call the school at 651-9343.

The outgoing message will provide information of our closing or delay. This is updated as soon as a decision is made about the closing or delay, typically between 6:15 and 7:00 AM.

\*Many TV and radio web sites have a link on their home page for closings and delays. We are located under Chittenden County, Heartworks Schools.



### **Parent Mailboxes**

Please check your parent mailbox daily as there are often notices and/or projects to be taken home. Thank you!

### **A “Delay” in Opening**

In the event of a “two hour delay” in opening due to the weather, we will open to receive children beginning at 10:20. Early care is not available on these days.

### **Heartworks Website**

If you have not yet looked at the school’s web site, we invite you to do so at [www.heartworksvt.com](http://www.heartworksvt.com). Here you will find past newsletters, The Parent Handbook, The Philosophy and Mission of the schools, Photos, and other information about the school including any school closings or delays.



## Extra Clothing

Please make sure your child has extra, seasonally appropriate, clothing at school. We go outside during the colder months. Please be sure your child has a warm coat, mittens, hat, snow pants, and boots. Children who stay for the afternoon should have two pairs of mittens as their mittens worn in the morning may get wet.

Please continue to label all clothing items with your child's name. This will help to keep all of your child's belongings together. Thank you!

## Enrichment Time

In both the morning and afternoon programs, the daily enrichment time has a connection to the monthly theme. Enrichment each day will cover one of the areas from the list below; a few examples are listed to provide you with an idea about each component.

*Art:* clay, collage, watercolors, using a variety of art mediums

*Physical Education:* climbing, running, yoga, dancing, obstacle course, balancing, skipping, jumping, ball throwing/catching

*Handiwork:* sewing, beading, quilting, folding, wire sculptures

*Baking:* muffins, breads, applesauce, fruit smoothies, pies, turnovers, cookies, pizzas

*Music & Movement:* singing, dancing, finger plays, music class

*Drama:* Reenacting stories, play writing and performing, role playing



*Science/Nature:* experiments, nature walks, field trips, planting seeds, nature discoveries, inventions

*Literacy & Math:* All classes incorporate literacy and math into their circle time and throughout the day. Pre-Kindergarten classes have formal writing workshops using workbooks and journals to help with letter formation, phonetic sounds, word families, and journal writing.

The teachers rotate through the list making sure all children in the class are enriched by each of the components throughout the year.

## School Snack

Thank you for signing up to provide snack for your child's class. We really appreciate the healthy and delicious choices you make. Please continue to check labels very carefully for nut ingredients, traces of nuts or items that have been manufactured in a plant containing peanut or nut products as we are a nut free school. Thank you!

## Winter Performance

On Thursday December 15th the children in the two Pre-Kindergarten classes will have a Winter Celebration Performance. Ellie, our Music teacher, is preparing this special evening of music for the children to share with their families and friends. The performance will be held at The Shelburne Commons starting at 5:30 PM.

The times for the performances are:  
Pre-Kindergarten Class with Heather ~ 5:30  
Pre-Kindergarten Class with Nicole ~ 6:00

Please arrive ten minutes prior to your scheduled performance time. Your child will join your child's teacher in the "backstage" room while family and friends take their seat in the performance room.

Each performance is approximately 20 minutes in length. For this special performance we ask that your child dress in "dressy" clothes. Thank you.

## National Association for the Education of Young Children

We are happy to inform you that we have, once again, passed the NAEYC standards with flying colors and have received national accreditation for another five years.

All together there is close to 350 points of inquiry that they observe or need to see documentation to support the criteria. We have fully met all "required and candidacy requirements." The criteria are divided into ten main categories including: Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment, Leadership and Management. We received scores of 100% (and some at 100+%) in

Relationships, Teaching, Assessment, Health, Teachers, Families, and Leadership and Management. Two of the four remaining categories were rated between 90% and 92%. We scored 80% in the last category of Community Relationships. Even though we have held a number of community service events through the years and share news of events in the community with our families and refer families to various local organizations, they hope that our teachers will join various community boards and local associations as well as reach out to local organizations to provide material items and resources to us and our families. All teachers who were observed scored ratings in the 90 percentile, with an average of over 96%. We are so proud of the teachers and of Heartworks Burlington.