



Heartworks Burlington Newsletter January/February 2010

Happy New Year!

A letter from the Director

We hope you had a wonderful holiday vacation and found time for family and friends. It is hard to believe we are already half way through the school year. The children returned to school happy to see classmates and full of enthusiasm for all the learning and play waiting for them in their classrooms. The themes for January are in full swing and the classrooms are bursting with exciting and engaging lessons and activities. In Amanda's classroom the children are learning about Eric Carle, Leo Lionni, and Dr. Seuss. The children are so enthusiastic listening to the many books by these famous authors. They measured and recorded their height just like the inch worm did in Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni and created beautiful sock drop paintings inspired by Dr. Seuss. In Deb's classroom their entire study is about dinosaurs ~ Watch out! The children can be overheard

discussing which dinosaurs are herbivores and which are carnivores. The class even planted grass for those giant plant eaters! Susan's class is learning all about the wonderful author and illustrator Jan Brett. They have begun a beautiful mural inspired by Jan Brett's book, The Umbrella, and did a marvelous job acting out The Mitten. The children in Ashley's class are learning about Fairy Tales. After reading The Three Snow Bears, the children delighted in a tricky size differentiation activity based on this story. The class also made a cooperative beanstalk growing right up to the ceiling after hearing, Jack and the Beanstalk. The three Pre-Kindergarten classes are all learning about Vermont this month. Heather's class is focusing on Vermont and agriculture. The children are learning the importance of farming in our state. Just like farmers, they planted corn in a classroom garden,

cooked with local eggs and "milked" a cow. They had a real farmer from the Blue Heron Farm in Grand Isle join their class and learned all about sheep! Rebecca's class has enjoyed learning many facts about our state and had many interesting ideas why our state is called the "Green Mountain State". They loved taste tasting different kinds of milk and then graphing the results. The children in Michelle's class have learned many of the state symbols and the significance of each. After learning about maple sugaring, the children baked delicious maple cookies using real Vermont maple syrup. The Pre-Kindergarten children are all learning Vermont's state song, These Green Mountains.

Please feel free to visit all the classrooms in our school. It has been an excellent start to the New Year ~ We are looking forward to joyful months ahead!



Dates to Remember:

- FEBRUARY 8: PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES **HALF DAY (NOON CLOSING)**
- FEBRUARY 9: PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES **No SCHOOL**
- FEBRUARY 11 & 12: VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS
- FEBRUARY 22-26: MID WINTER BREAK **No SCHOOL**

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Main Office Notes

In these chilly times, it's sometimes hard to think about what you might be doing this summer.



Before you know it, the snow will begin to melt, the crocuses will be poking their heads up out of the ground and the warm weather will be here. Our Summer Camp brochures will be available soon. We will be offering the Summer Pre-School as well as The Renaissance Summer Enrichment Academy for children in elementary school. Brochures for both camps will be available at the school and will be posted on our website as soon as they are complete.

We feel blessed to have many full classes for next year. If you have not submitted a re-enrollment form and deposit or returned your enrollment agreement for next year, your child is at risk of not having a space in the fall. If you are unsure of your plans for next year, please call and let us know where you are with your re-enrollment decisions.

For questions, new forms or tuition assistance materials, please call 985-2153.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

~Stacia Tauscher
Heartworks Burlington

Afternoon Enrichment

We now have three afternoon enrichment classes. Heather, Deb, and Michelle are providing a fun and valuable curriculum where each day has a particular focus of learning: drama, cooking, math, literacy, handiwork, art or music. The children are truly enjoying themselves in the afternoon.



Drop Off Safety

We want to keep all of the children safe at Heartworks School. In the morning when you are dropping off your child please walk them all the way to their classroom. It is important that you make contact with the teacher in the room so she knows your child has arrived. We do not want any children in the hallways or classrooms without an adult. Thank you.

Book Buddies

We are happy to announce our new Book Buddy program. Each month two classes are teamed up to visit each other once a week so the children can share and enjoy books (and letter recognition, counting, shapes, colors, etc) with one another. We are hopeful this not only promotes a love of literacy, but continues to strengthen our Heartworks community. So far our book buddies have really enjoyed their time spent together!



Please visit our Lost and Found located in the North lobby (outside of Deb's classroom). It is full of treasures from Anoraks to Zipper hoodies!

ATTENTION

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

Thank you for parking only in designated spots in our parking lot. Also, please turn off your engine while you are in the school during the morning drop off and the afternoon pick up. Idling is unsafe for others and our environment.

Outside Time

We plan to go outside daily unless the temperature or wind-chill falls below a reasonable level. The fresh air and outdoor movement is so important for the children during these cold months. Please send your child with all of their snow gear each day ~ a warm jacket, snow pants, boots, hat and mittens. Thank you for **labeling** every item of clothing that you send to school. There is a lot of winter clothing that can easily be misplaced or accidentally sent home with another child.



Parent Volunteers

December was a special month of celebrating many different holidays and customs from around the world. It was also a month of

celebrating family and loved ones. We greatly appreciated all of the parent involvement in the classrooms during this time. The

Martin Luther King Jr.

We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday January 18th. The teachers planned many rich activities that reflected the

importance of this special day ~ There was a Peace March, Poems read, 'I have a dream' reflections written by children,

Classroom Themes



January Classroom Themes:

The school-wide theme this month is **Teacher Choice...**
Amanda's two-year old class: Famous authors: Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, and Leo Lionni.
Deb's three-year old class: Dinosaurs
Susan's three & four year old class: Author Study: Jan Brett
Ashley's three & four year old class: Fairy Tales
Pre-Kindergarten classes: Vermont



February Classroom Themes:

The school-wide theme in February is **Animal/People Habitats...**
Two-year old class: Forest
Three-year old class: Winter
Three & Four year old classes: Mountain
Pre-Kindergarten classes: Rainforest or Wetlands



children love to share their families with their classmates.

Thank You!



stories told and songs sung about the great leader, Martin Luther King Jr. The children learned who Martin

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

~Martin Luther King Jr.

Luther King Jr. was and why he was such an important and significant figure in our history.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will take place on Monday, February 8th (school will close at noon) and on Tuesday, February 9th (school be closed for the full day). Sign up sheets for these days will soon be posted on the bulletin board in your child's class. Please be sure to sign up for an individual time with your child's teacher. In February the conferences are a time for information sharing, there will not be a written evaluation sent home. There will be a written evaluation sent home in June. While we love having children here, please be sure to make alternative child care arrangements for your child as a conference will not take place with a child present in the room.



Valentine's Day

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in all of the classrooms on Thursday February 11th and Friday February 12th. The children will celebrate this day of love, kindness and friendship with special stories, songs, snacks, activities and exchanging cards. The children in each class will be making Valentine mailboxes to collect their special cards. Please bring in one card for every child in the class. If you need a class list, please ask your child's teacher.



Please check the website each month for important upcoming dates.

Community Outreach

Each month one classroom will be choosing a community service project for the children to take part in.

During the month of November Amanda's class organized a collection for the Chittenden County Emergency Food Shelf. The children visited Hannaford grocery store where each child bought a canned good to add to

the collection box. 167 pounds of food was delivered to the Food Shelf on November 24th.

During the month of December, Ashley's class organized a collection for The Ronald McDonald House in Burlington. The children collected food and household items to give to families staying at The Ronald McDonald House. The class

successfully collected and delivered three large boxes of supplies.

Thank you for all your support with these two community outreach projects.

During the month of January, Rebecca's class is collecting items for the Lund Center. Please see the notices and boxes located in the two lobbies.

