



Heartworks Shelburne Newsletter November 2011



Welcome to Our New Director



We are so pleased to welcome Libby Macdonald to her new role of Director for Heartworks Shelburne. Libby joined the Heartworks family last

spring, working in the various preschools as a substitute teacher, and is thrilled to be working in her new administrative position with Heartworks.

Libby has always wanted to be a teacher, a sentiment shared with family and friends in a long-ago family Christmas letter from when Libby was just six years old! While Libby loved being in the classroom, she is very excited to be able to welcome and interact each day with every child, family, and teacher as the school director, and is looking

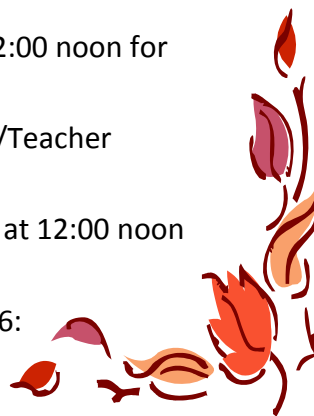
forward to a wonderful new adventure with our school.

Libby brings a wealth of teaching knowledge to our school community, holding a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Marymount University, as well as many years of previous classroom experience gained by working in private preschools in the Washington, DC area. She is looking forward to sharing her considerable knowledge and skills with all of the Heartworks teachers as she assumes this new position.

Libby comes to us from McLean, VA, along with her husband and three children; Jackson, age 14, Duncan, age 10 and daughter Ellie, age six. Libby and her family are happily experiencing their first Vermont fall in their Burlington home, and are looking forward to many more happy seasons here with us. Welcome Libby!

October and November Calendar of Events

- Monday and Tuesday, October 31 and November 1: Halloween Celebrations
- Monday, November 7: School closes at 12:00 noon for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, November 8: No School; Parent/Teacher Conferences all day
- Wednesday, November 23: School closes at 12:00 noon for Thanksgiving Recess
- Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26: No School; Thanksgiving Recess



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Halloween

As the children arrived at school on the chilly mornings of Monday and Tuesday, pieces of their Halloween costumes peeked out from underneath their jackets, revealing some of the magic that the day would bring. Each of the teachers greeted the children and families dressed as their own favorite Halloween character, setting the mood for a fun and exciting morning at Heartworks.

Our colorful and creative costume parade was lead by music teacher, Ellie Tetrick, following alongside the buildings of Shelburne Commons, circling the gazebo and green. Children and parents alike joined in the songs and fun as the celebration continued back into Heartworks to watch as the teachers performed a skit.

Field Trips The children have been enjoying the beautiful fall season with trips to the nearby Shelburne Apple Orchard. Many fun, and tasty enrichment projects have been taking place in the school's classrooms. Ask your child what they have learned during this annual celebration of fall.



Outside Clothing

As the weather becomes chillier, please be sure your child has a sweatshirt or jacket to wear outside. Please also check the supply of extra clothing in your child's cubby to ensure that it is adequate for the season. Thank you for writing your child's name inside all of their clothing.

Halloween Comes to Heartworks School



The school-wide theme for October was Culture. Each class learned about the following :

- Heather & Sherri's class: Australia
- Brittany & Hilary's classes: China
- Julia's class: Mexico
- Kristen's class: Kenya
- Leiann's class: Africa

The school-wide theme this month is Teacher Choice. Each class is learning about the following :

- Heather & Sherri's class: Vermont
- Brittany's class: Dr. Seuss
- Hilary's class: Colors & Shapes
- Julia's class: Outer Space
- Kristen's class: Weather
- Leiann's class: The Human Body

Fire Drills

In case you had not heard, we practice monthly fire drills with the children. They learn how to line up and exit the building quickly and quietly, and assemble by class at an assigned location near the Main Office, Building D, with their teacher.

It typically takes us less than a minute to exit the school. By the time the last class is assembled at their specific spot, and all the children have been counted and reported to be present, only about two to two and a half minutes have passed with approximately 60 children and 9 staff members being evacuated.



Fire Prevention Week

As classroom teacher Julia Beerworth pulled on the heavy uniform, air mask, and gear of an actual firefighter, many of the children of Heartworks Preschool in Shelburne watched in amusement, giggling and laughing at how very different she looked. This was the perfect opportunity for “Firefighter Bob” to remind all of the children that fire fighters are community helpers, and friends, who will look just like Julia as they come into a burning building to help put out a fire and make sure everyone is safe.

The children listened attentively as the team from the Shelburne Fire Department spoke about fire safety. The “Stop, Drop and Roll” floor mat was a lively, and fun, addition to this demonstration, as children quickly practiced this safety maneuver to the cheers of their friends. Following a crawling activity underneath a blanket canopy of “smoke”, the children took turns sitting in an actual fire truck, parked at the school. The visit ended with “Thank-you’s” and “Goodbye’s” from all of the children to their new fire fighting friends.

The fire department has made this an annual visit to our school each fall and we continue to look forward to hosting their visit for many years to come at our beautiful new location.

Picture Day

We hope you have had an opportunity to look on-line at the class and individual pictures that were taken by AMV Photography. If you have not yet had a chance to look, or if you were unsure of how to see these photos, you can go to www.AMVPhotography.com and click on the “Enlightened Kids” section of the web site and see “Heartworks Shelburne” to click. You will need to enter your email address and the password of *Play*.

Emergency Contact Information

Please remember that if you move, change any of your telephone numbers – work, home, cell – to let us know of the new information as soon as possible. Thank you.



Heartworks Shelburne contacts:

School phone: 985-8133

Main Office phone: 985-2153

www.heartworksvt.com

“Getting to Know You.....” We will feature all of our teachers in upcoming newsletters, and know it will be helpful for you to get to know these dedicated professional educators who interact with your child each day.

Heather Ogelby

Heather is the head teacher in our Two Year Old Classroom. She is in her fifth year with Heartworks, having worked in all of the preschools in Shelburne, Burlington and Williston, as well as at The Renaissance School, our elementary school located at Shelburne Farms. A native Vermonter, Heather holds a Bachelors Degree from St. Michael’s College in Elementary Education and Psychology, and did her student teaching as a Para-educator in area Kindergarten classrooms. She came to Heartworks in 2007 after hearing about the school from a friend and is happy she chose to work here., saying “I am very glad that I applied!”

- Favorite part of the day: “I love Story by Heart , especially when the children get involved with the story telling...retelling (it) other times during the day.”
- Favorite Heartworks tradition: “My favorite Heartworks tradition is the celebrations, and one of my favorite celebrations is St. Patrick’s Day because of the magic of the leprechauns that come to school. I also love that we sing the Blessing Song and say the Thank You at snack and lunch times. “

Brittany Hiatt

Brittany is the head teacher in our Three Year Old Classroom. She is in her first year with Heartworks, having received her invitation to join our school on her Birthday this past August, and says “It was an excellent present!” Originally from Massachusetts, she earned her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from UVM, and has taught in both the Boston area as well as in Burlington public schools. Brittany shares “One of my goals for the year is to learn how to play the ukulele like Julia.!”

- Favorite part of the day: “My favorite part of the day is explore time. Being with my class inside our room is a beautiful experience. The children are always busy doing their favorite things, and I love being able to work with them and also observe them while each child is in his or her element. They all work together to make our classroom a peaceful and productive environment, and I can't ask for anything better than that. “
- Favorite Heartworks tradition: “I've found that my favorite tradition is the rhythm of the day. It is predictable, the children know what to do when they enter the classroom, they know what to expect throughout the day, and they know when to expect someone to come and pick them up. It's easier to teach and to plan, knowing how much time I can allow for certain activities, and knowing that the children in my class will be prepared for what I have to offer. “

Parent/Teacher Conferences

A sign-up sheet for the parent/teacher conferences on November 7th and 8th is posted on the bulletin board at your child’s class. Please be sure to sign up for a 30-minute individual time with your child’s teacher. This is a wonderful opportunity to have the complete attention of your child’s teacher for 30 minutes to hear all about your child’s day as well as to ask questions and share your goals for your child.

On November 7th the conference times begin at 1:10 PM and on November 8th the times begin at 8:00 AM. If your child has a different afternoon teacher from the morning program, you are welcome to sign up for a conference with that teacher too.

Please be sure to make alternate child care arrangements for your child as a conference will not take place with a child in the room. If the available days/times do not work for you, please speak with your child’s teacher to arrange a time that is more suitable for the teacher and yourself. Thank you.

We look forward to meeting with you, to answer your questions, and to share all of the wonderful work your child has been engaged in to date.