

Heartworks Williston Newsletter December 2011

December Classroom Theme

"Celebrations Around the World."

All of the children will learn about many wonderful traditions and celebrations from around the world. This may include:

- ~~ St. Nicholas Day (December 6)
- ~~ St. Lucia Day (December 13)
- ~~ Las Posadas (begins on December 16)
- ~~ Winter Solstice (December 21)
- ~~ Hanukkah (begins at sundown on December 20)
- ~~ Christmas (December 25)
- ~~ Kwanzaa (begins on December 26)
- ~~ The Legend of the Poinsettia.

If your family celebrates a certain holiday or tradition during this month that you would like to share with the class, please speak to your child's teacher.

Pajama Day

All of the classes will host pajama days on December 19 and 20 as a celebration of the successful completion of the first portion of the school year, and a welcome beginning to 2012 - Happy New Year! We will have warm chocolate to drink as part of the special celebration. Please pack additional clothing (warm) for outside time as well as additional clothing for those children who stay into the afternoon in case they wish to change. Thank you.

December Calendar of Events

December 12: School closes at 3:00

December 12: Winter Performance for the four Pre-Kindergarten classes

December 21 through January 2:
No School; Holiday Recess

January Calendar of Events

January 3: Classes Resume

January 17: Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

All-School Story by Hearts

Throughout this month, children from various classes will join together on many days for Story by Heart in the all-purpose room. The stories will be told by Lisa and will focus on the various holiday celebrations.

Story by Heart time is so very special and magical for the children. Having 30 to 40 "friends" from various classes and ages together to share in the tradition during this time of year greatly enhances our community commonality between the classes while also learning about various cultural traditions, diversity and ways to help others.

Winter Clothing

The winter weather is here. Please remember to arrive with a hat, mittens, boots and snow pants for your child every day as well as extra clothes and socks that can remain at school. The children go outside every day. Thank you.

Our Afternoon Program

Most years, right after the holiday break, many parents want to extend their child's day at school as the children are having so much fun and learning time with the teachers and classmates and ask to "stay longer". You may extend the day by adding lunch time to 1:00 or through the afternoon program to 3:30 or longer up to 5:30. About 55% of the children stay one or more days for lunch and 48% of the children extend their day to at least 3:30. Some of the classes on certain days are almost full; if you think you would like to extend your child's day for the rest of the year, please call Kelly at 985-2153.

Fun Facts and Thank You

Thank you for continuously referring friends to Heartworks. In Williston, we currently have 120 children enrolled, 10 sets of siblings including 3 sets of twins. All of your positive comments to friends and family have helped our school to grow. Thank you for helping us to achieve that success.

We also would like to thank the Wertlieb family (Gretchen) for providing the staff with yummy baked goods and the Brown family (Rue and Sophie) for our supply of K-cups.

Summer Enrollment

Many families, and especially recent families taking a tour of our school, have inquired about our summer enrollment process. Applications and materials for the summer enrichment camp will be available in late January or early February. You can enroll week-by-week for any, or all, of the eight weeks. The fun and enriching themes are presented on a weekly basis. The rhythm of the day includes the same learning components of a circle and enrichment activity along with more songs, movement and game activities, outside adventures, and play time in our small wading pools. It is never too early to start thinking about your plans for the summer.

Happy Holidays

We hope you have the opportunity to create your own family traditions; these could be connected to the holidays, the month or even a quiet stroll outside in the first snow storm. Whatever it may be, try to continue and enhance upon it each and every year. The children value time with their family doing activities together. They will remember and look forward to these activities that become "traditional" year after year, and more special with each year.

From all the faculty and staff in Williston, we wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday filled with many special moments. Thank you for being a part of our school community.