

# Heartworks Williston Newsletter December 2009

## December Classroom Theme

The theme this month for all classrooms is:

"Celebrations Around the World."

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

- ~~ St. Nicholas' Day (December 6)
- ~~ Hanukkah (begins at sundown on December 11)
- ~~ St. Lucia's Day (December 13)
- ~~ Las Posadas (begins on December 16)
- ~~ Winter Solstice (December 21)
- ~~ Christmas (December 25)
- ~~ Kwanzaa (begins on December 26)
- ~~ The Legend of the Poinsettia.

If your family celebrates a certain holiday during this month that is not listed and/or you would like to present a special activity for any of the celebrations listed above, please be sure to speak to your child's teacher.

## December and January Calendar of Events

**Monday, December 21 through**

**Friday, January 1:**

No school; Holiday Break

**Monday, January 4:** Classes Resume

**Monday, January 19:** Martin Luther King Jr., Day - We are open all day

**Tuesday, January 26:**

Winter Performance for the four oldest classes

## All-School Story by Hearts

Throughout this month, children from three to four classes will join together on many days for Story by Heart in the all-purpose room by the library. The stories will be told by Lisa and will focus on the various holiday celebrations about which we are learning. Story by heart time is so very special and magical for the children and having 30 to 40 "friends" together to share in the tradition during this time of year simply enhances our community commonality between the classes while also learning about various cultural traditions and ways to help others.

## Pajama Day

Many of the classes will be hosting two pajama days during the last week of school in December. This will be a celebration for completing the first portion of the school year and a welcome beginning to 2010. Each classroom teacher will provide you with the dates of their pajama days. 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.

## **Collection for the Williston Food Shelf**

Thank you so much for the very generous contributions during our food collection week before Thanksgiving to support our community neighbors who visit the Williston Food Shelf. At the end of the week, the oldest classes collected the decorated boxes from the classrooms. Since all the boxes weighed so much with an abundance of food, the children used our winter sleds to place the cans and boxes upon and then worked together to pull the sleds through the hallways and into the large all-purpose room by the library. They had so much fun! Each of these older classes then took turns weighing the items on a scale and stacking them in a neat and creative way. At the end of the morning session all of the classes joined together to take an all-school picture for the day. The children clearly loved contributing and sharing food with our neighbors and the classroom teachers used it as a wonderful teaching moment for helping others. We even heard of a few stories of how some children made the choices at home or at the grocery store of the items to contribute to help those in need. We thank all of you for donating so much - over 300 pounds of food! The Williston food shelf was so very delighted; they expressed tremendous thankfulness for the variety and high quality of food as well as the abundance of items.

## **Who's Who at Our School**

In case you have not had a chance to meet our entire faculty, here is a list of the teachers and the class they teach in morning.

**Desiree Currier** - two year old teacher

**GayLynn Thornton** - assistant teacher

**Timmel (Labare) Albertson** - young  
three year old teacher

**Sarah Mosley** - three year old teacher

**Amy (Brown) Veilleux** - three year old  
teacher

**Brooke Summerville-Henry** - young  
four year old teacher

**Heidi Agan** - four and five year old  
teacher

**Nicole Walsh** - four and five year old  
teacher

**Lauren Boncek** - four and five year old  
teacher

**Laura Poirier** - Administrative Assistant  
in the mornings

**Lisa Zengilowski** - School Director

## **Happy News to Share**

During this month of "celebrations" it is wonderful to share with you so many happy occasions among our faculty including:

~ At the end of September, Timmel was married to Tim Albertson

~ At the beginning of November, Amy was married to Matt Veilleux

~ Brooke is pregnant and the baby is due near the end of March

Congratulations and best wishes to these wonderful faculty members and to all who may be celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or the birth of a child during this month of "celebrations".

## **School Closures and Delays**

In the event of snow or another form of inclement weather, Heartworks may close for the day or delay opening until later in the morning. Please listen and watch for school closure and delay information on most radio stations and TV stations. It is most frequently heard or seen on 92.9 FM and WPTZ TV Channel 5 and WCAX TV Channel 3. There will also be a message on the Heartworks Williston telephone voice mail outgoing message (872-7878) to confirm any closures or delays.

A decision to close is typically made between 6:00 and 7:00 AM. We are often asked if we follow the decisions made by the Williston schools. The answer is typically not; we may be open and they may be closed.

If there is a delay in opening, the delay for starting does not include early care. For example, a two-hour delay in opening means school will open at 10:20.

Another place to look is on-line. Most radio and TV stations now have a "School Closings" item on their home page to click which will display all school closings - [www.star929.com](http://www.star929.com) is an easy and very reliable website to also find the school closing list.

## **Winter Clothing**

The winter weather has arrived. Please remember to bring to school 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.

## **Winter Performance on January 26**

The children who have Lauren, Nicole, Heidi, or Brooke as a teacher will have a short musical performance in the late afternoon and early evening for parents and friends. This is a special time where the children will share some of the songs that they have learned during their music class with Ellie. Exact times for each class will be available in January. Please note that this is an additional date to our school calendar.

## ***Happy Holidays***

*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.*