

Heartworks School Williston Newsletter January, 2010

*Happy New Year!
We hope you had a restful and
peaceful start to the New Year!*

January Classroom Themes

Our School-wide theme this month is "Cultures." Each class will discuss and learn about the following cultures:

Two and young three-year old classes:

Australia

Three-year old class with Sarah:

China

Three-year old class with Amy:

Japan

Young four-year old class with

Brooke:

Mexico

Four and five year old classes:

Kenya

Winter Clothing

Please remember to write your child's name on all winter clothing - snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, and scarves. There are many, many black snow pants, boots and mittens. Having your child's name on the items will greatly assist us in keeping the belongings together. Thank you.

January and February Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 26 - Winter Performances for the four oldest classes (please note: this is a new addition to our calendar). Times for each class are listed on Page 3.

Monday, February 8 - Close at 12:00; parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon.

Tuesday, February 9 - No school; Parent/Teacher Conferences all day.

Monday and Tuesday, February 15 and 16 - Valentine's Day celebrations

Monday, February 22-Friday, February 26 - Closed for winter break

Monday, March 1 - Classes Resume

How are we doing?

Please be sure to leave us a note in our "How are we doing?" box located in the front entranceway. You may write about how we are meeting your child's needs, positive feedback to your child's teacher, ways we can improve our program or suggestions to better meet your child's needs. The teachers really enjoy hearing how well the year is going, and we appreciate hearing your suggestions. Thank you.

December was a Month Filled with Celebrations

So much fun and learning took place during our month of celebrations! The children loved learning about the various holiday celebrations, customs and traditions from around the world.

The children briefly heard about St. Nicholas, St. Lucia, Las Pasadas, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the Legend of the Poinsettia. This was an opportunity for the children to hear of the goodness of other people and that it is perfectly fine that we all celebrate and have different traditions to celebrate. This also encourages children to accept each other as individuals and not to base acceptance on what we do or what we celebrate or what we have in common with each other.

At Heartworks we share the traditions, purpose, and reasons that we celebrate a certain holiday; we leave out the commercialization of the holiday.

We hope this glimpse into learning about various celebrations and traditions begins to set a foundation in children of the goodness of others and a willingness to want to help others and that working together and being open to accept each other will continue to create harmony, peace and happiness.

We also had our first snow fall in December. The children were so excited to venture outside in all their snow gear to use the sleds and shovels. We are so very fortunate to have a tremendous amount of outside space for the children to play. It is rewarding to watch the children switch from playing with trucks and in the sand box as well as climbing on the play structures during the fall and now being pulled around on sleds and digging with the shovels. Our seasons bring so much excitement and changes for all of us.

The pajama parties in the classrooms during the last week of school were a wonderful addition this year to our end of the year celebration. We will be adding this tradition to our December events each year. As you begin to add traditions or celebrations in your home, always remember that it is the time the children spend with you creating these traditions that continue year after year that they will remember - having fun together and creating your own traditions enhances childhood memories.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 8th and 9th. As a result, we will close at noon on Monday the 8th and close all day on Tuesday, the 9th.

Each teacher has posted a sign-up sheet on their bulletin board for you to select a particular conference time. If you need to arrange a different time or day than what is listed on the sign-up sheet for your child's class, please be sure to ask your child's teacher.

The conference is a wonderful opportunity for you to hear about your child's accomplishments since the last conference. In addition, this is a perfect time for you to express any wishes, goals and preferences that you may have for your child for the rest of the school year and ways we can meet their needs. Please note that this is for parents and teachers only; please find alternative care for your child. Thank you.

Late Care on January 26

As some of you know, the older classes have a winter performance on this day. We wish to confirm for you that late care will take place to 5:30 on this day for those not involved in the winter performances. After 4:00 the children who are usually in Desiree's classroom will be found playing in Timmel's room and the children who play in the all-purpose room during late care, will be in Heidi's classroom.

Winter Performance

On January 26

The children in the four oldest classes will have a Winter Celebration performance on Tuesday, January 26. Ellie, the music teacher, is preparing this special evening of music for the children to share with their parents and friends. The times for the performances are:

Brooke's class at 4:30

Nicole's class at 5:00

Lauren's class at 5:30

Heidi's class at 6:00

Please arrive ten minutes prior to your scheduled performance time and enter the building through the main entrance. Children will join their classroom teacher in Sarah's room while family and friends take a seat in the all-purpose room. Each performance is approximately 20 minutes in length. For this special performance we ask that your child dress in their "Sunday Best".

A "Delay" in Opening Due to the Weather

In the event of a "two hour delay" in opening, we will open to receive children beginning at 10:20. The time is calculated from when the morning program begins (8:20) and early care is not available on these days.

School Closings due to Weather

In the event of snow or another form of 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 on-going basis.
- ❖ You may call the school at 872-7878. 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 6:00 and 7:00 AM.
- ❖ Many TV and radio web sites have a link on their home page that says "closings and delays" - all schools in the area are listed there. We are located under: Chittenden County, Heartworks Schools.

Parents who may have a challenging commute to or from school during inclement weather are welcome to arrive late in the morning or choose to have their child stay home. During the school day parents are welcome to pick their child up at any time that best suits their needs.

Children Staying in the Afternoon

If your child stays in the afternoon past 1:00, please remember to send in one to two extra pair of mittens for outside play and extra socks. Thank you.

Thank You

A very special thank you is extended to Sylvia Sprigg (Mia Carmolli's Grandmother) for donating so many recyclable items that can be used for various craft and classroom projects. Thank you for thinking of the children and our school in your donation.

A very "warm" thank you is extended to Kate Youlen (Eva's mother) for providing each teacher with a pair of pajamas in December as a holiday cheer. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Recyclable Paper

We are looking for recyclable paper that can be used in the classrooms for the children to draw on during explore time. This may include old letterhead stationary, restaurant paper menus, or other forms of paper that is in need of recycling. It is fine if only one side of the paper is available for their use. We wish to teach the children the importance of re-using and recycling paper for additional purposes. Thank you.