

Heartworks Schools Williston Newsletter October, 2011

Dear Friends,

Chilly mornings and sunny afternoons represent the perfect fall weather for all of us. The children are enjoying their outside time of running, digging in the sandbox, kicking soccer balls, swinging, climbing and so much more.

It is amazing that we are starting our seventh week of school, and for some children this may mean less than twenty school days. The children are settled into their classroom routine and are happy to play and learn with so many new friends.

Please be sure to read the communication board at the classroom each day. Here you will find the daily agenda including the theme discussion, math, literacy and enrichment activities as well as the snack for the day and the name of the Story by Heart.

Please continue to let us know if you have any questions or suggestions; we truly enjoy hearing of how your child is enjoying school or suggestions that might be made to improve your child's school experience.

~ Lisa ~

October Classroom Themes

The school-wide theme this month is: "Animal Homes and People Homes" (Biomes). Each class will learn about the following biomes:

Desiree and Timmel's classes:

Life in the Forest

Sarah and Amy's classes:

Life in the Desert - hot and cold

Meaghan's class:

Life in the Mountains

Betsy, Joanne, Lauren's classes:

Life in the Rainforests

October and November Calendar of Events

Thursday, October 20: We are closed for Teacher Professional Development Day.

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 for Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26: No School; Thanksgiving Recess

Halloween Celebrations

Please see the attached note about the Halloween Celebrations that will take place on Monday, October 31st and Tuesday, November 1st.

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. As many parents have commented "They are beautiful - for every child." If you have not yet had a chance to look or if you were unsure of how to see the photos, you can go to AMVPhotography.com and click on the "Enlightened Kids" section of the web site and see "Heartworks Williston" to click. You will need to enter your email address and the password of *books*. The deadline to place an order and receive a 25% discount ends on October 20th.

Books for Friends affected by Hurricane Irene

Thank you so much to the families in Lauren and Joanne's classes for contributing books that will be donated to schools and families who lost a majority of their children's books due to the Hurricane. Between the two classes over 250 books were donated. The children enjoyed counting the books and sorting them into various piles as they enhance their math skills as well as realizing the joy involved in giving to others.

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.

Fall Family Picnic

It was so nice to have so many families join us in September for our fall family picnic. The families enjoyed picnicking, meeting and socializing with new and old acquaintances, and the children especially loved having more time at school playing with their friends on the playground.

Retirement Home

Two of our pre-kindergarten classes during their September theme of Friendly Neighborhoods baked cookies for "our neighbors" and walked next door to approximately fifteen elderly during their day program. The children were greeted with wonderful smiles and happiness for their presence and consideration for visiting and making cookies.

Many of the elderly shared their name, including one who was 98 years old and a former school teacher. One of the staff members said this person had tears in her eyes at seeing the children. Another person is a very skilled sketch artist and has given the school three of his sketches which we hope to frame shortly.

Both of these classes plan to make many more visits throughout the rest of the year.

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.

Fire Prevention Week

One of the days during fire prevention week, six members of the Williston Fire Department visited the school to share some of their knowledge and skill with the children of the four older classes who were at school. They also brought a fire truck and an ambulance for all to see.

The fire personnel asked the children to talk with their parents about a fire evacuation plan at their house. They also demonstrated putting on all of their protective clothing and explained the importance of each of the pieces. The children had the opportunity to ask questions as well as sit in the fire truck and the ambulance.

The fire department has made this an annual visit to our school for the past four or five years and we continue to look forward to hosting their visit for many years to come.

Whose Who at Our School

For the Morning Program

Teachers in the two-year old class:

~~ Desiree Currier with Danielle Moon assisting

Teachers in the three-year old classes:

~~ Timmel Albertson with Sewall Whitemore through mid-January

~~ Sarah Mosley

~~ Amy Veilleux

Teachers in the Pre-Kindergarten classes:

~~ Lauren Boncek

~~ Betsy Lafayette-Jordan

~~ Joanne Magnan

~~ Meaghan McGinty

For the Afternoon Program

Nap class - Desiree and Danielle

Four Afternoon Enrichment Classes:

Lunch class ends at 1:00 and the afternoon program is from 1:00 to 3:30

~ Sarah at lunch and then Joanne this month and Amy will return to teaching in the afternoon beginning in November

~ Sewall at lunch and then Meaghan

~ Joanne at lunch and then Lauren

~ Betsy at lunch and then Timmel

Lisa Zengilowski - School Director

If you would like to extend your child's day into the afternoon, please see Lisa.

In addition, there is always room in our early care classroom with Sarah from

7:30-8:15. Also some of our morning classes have openings for either adding the day for the rest of the school year or for simply adding a day as an extra day for the week because your child simple wants to be at school another day or you have some errands or an appointment. Please let Lisa know as making the arrangements is very easy.

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 a specific location on the playground 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 70 children and 11 staff members being evacuated.

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.

Heartworks Schools

Telephone number in Williston: 872-7878

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