

# Heartworks Schools Williston Newsletter November 2011

## November Classroom Themes

"Science" is the school-wide theme this month. Each class is discussing and learning about the following themes:

**Desiree and Timmel's classes:**

*Transportation and Simple Machines*

**Sarah and Amy's classes:**

*Health and Our Bodies*

**Meaghan's class:**

*Weather*

**Joanne, Betsy, and Lauren's classes:**

*The Solar System*

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

We hope you enjoyed meeting with your child's teacher and learning about the progress that your child has made since the beginning of the year. We also hope you had an opportunity to share any additional goals you may have for your child. The teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and share their news of your child's successes.

If you were unable to meet with your child's classroom teacher during our conference days, and would like to have a conference, please be sure to ask for available times. We will be happy to set up a mutually convenient time for you.

## November Calendar of Events

**November 18:** Deadline to submit the re-enrollment form and deposit for the 2012-2013 school year as well as to enroll younger siblings.

**November 23** - We will close at 12:00 noon for Thanksgiving Recess.

**November 24 and 25** - We are closed for Thanksgiving Recess.

## December Calendar of Events

**December 12:** School closes at 3:00 in preparation for the Winter Performances for the four Pre-Kindergarten classes.

**December 21 through January 2:**  
No School; Holiday Recess

## January Calendar of Events

**January 3:** Classes Resume

**January 16:** Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## **Absent or Going to be Late**

Thank you for calling to let us know when your child will be absent or substantially late. We really appreciate it!

## **Thank You!**

We would like to thank a number of families who have visited the classes to share some of their talents as related to our monthly theme discussions. This has included: a dentist, dental hygienist, yoga teacher and musician, as well as 12 additional parents who visited the classes during our Halloween celebrations who had prepared and presented an activity to share with the class and/or provided a special holiday snack.

We would also like to thank those parents who have contributed recyclable materials or other items for classroom use.

We greatly appreciate the families who have been providing baked goods for the teachers as well as our supply of k-cups.

We so very much appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness. It is fantastic to observe families, children and faculty working together to create a wonderful, home-like community that consists of 120 children from 100 families and 11 faculty members all working together for the benefit of the children.

## **Immunization Records**

When your child receives additional immunizations, please be sure to submit a new immunization record for our files. This typically happens around their fourth or fifth birthday. Thank you.

## **Extra Clothing**

Please make sure your child has extra clothing at school, especially extra socks, in case their socks get wet during the rainy or snowy outside weather. This is very helpful to your child and to the teacher.

We go outside even during the colder months. Please be sure your child has appropriate outside clothing for the weather; this may include: warm coat, snow pants, boots, hat, and mittens. Children who stay into the afternoon should have at least two pairs of mittens as their mittens may be wet after the morning program.

Please continue to label all clothing items with your child's name. This will assist the teachers in helping your child to find their outside clothes as well as allow us to keep all of your belongings together. Thank you.

## **Parking Lot**

Please remember to exit the parking lot by continuing to drive through the parking lot, past the playground and shed and out the opposite side from the entrance. In this way, the traffic will continue to flow in one direction making it easier and safer for those who are trying to enter the parking lot. Please share this news with all who may drive to our school. Thank you.

## Enrichment Time

In both the morning and afternoon programs, the daily enrichment time has a connection to the monthly theme. Enrichment each day will cover one of the areas from the list below; a few examples are listed to provide you with an idea about each component.

- **Art:** clay, collage, watercolors, using a variety of painting mediums
- **Physical Education:** obstacle course, climbing, running, kicking, martial arts, yoga, dancing, demonstrating concepts
- **Handiwork:** sewing, braiding, quilting, making small pillows, woodwork, taking electronics apart, folding cloths, wire sculptures, beading
- **Baking/Food Prep:** pies, muffins, breads, applesauce, turnovers, fruit salad
- **Music and Movement:** singing, dancing, music class
- **Drama/Puppetry:** creating stories and preparing shows; reading a story and then acting it out
- **Science/Nature:** growing items, science experiments, nature discoveries, walks in our forest, field trips, inventions
- **Literacy and Math:** Pre-Kindergarten classes have formal writing workshops using workbooks to help with letter formation and phonetic sounds and journal writing; all classes incorporate literacy and math during circle time and throughout the day.

The teachers rotate through the list making sure all children in the class are enriched by each of the components throughout the school year.

## 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.

- ❖ 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 6:15 and 7:00 AM.
- ❖ Many radio and television stations broadcast this information.
- ❖ 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 with you. During the school day, parents are welcome to pick their child up at any time that best suits their needs.

### A "Delay" in Opening

In the event of a "two hour delay" in opening due to the weather, 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.

## **We are always collecting the following recyclable items**

Baby food jars, small jar tops, butcher paper rolls, recyclable paper, buttons, cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, calendars (old), cereal boxes, coffee filters, cotton balls, corks, egg cartons, fabric scraps, feathers, felt scraps, greeting cards, magnets, margarine or other small tubs, newspapers, magazines, oatmeal (or other) canisters, packing bubble sheets, paper bags, paper plates, plastic lids, ribbons, sand paper scraps, straws (drinking), tissue paper, wallpaper scraps and samples, wooden beads, wood dowels, wood scraps, yarn, and plastic grocery bags. So before you think of tossing any of these items into your recycling bin, please feel free to bring them to school for various creative uses. Thank you.

## **Winter Performance on Monday, December 12**

The children in the four Pre-Kindergarten classes will have a Winter Celebration performance on Monday, December 12. 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:

Meaghan's class at 4:30

Betsy's class at 5:00

Joanne's class at 5:30

Lauren'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 will be approximately 20 minutes in length. For this special performance we ask that your child dress in their "Sunday Best". Thank you.

## **News in the Classroom**

We encourage you to enter your child's classroom during the arrival and departure times to look around, have your child share some news with you as well as receive news from the teacher. Please take a moment to read the bulletin board each day. Here you will find notices of upcoming events and reminders, as well as the daily agenda which contains information about the learning that will take place during the day. The agenda lists activities and theme discussions during circle time, the enrichment activity, the morning snack and other activities that may take place during explore and outside times. Some parents share the agenda news with their child upon arriving into the classroom in the morning, and many parents use the information to engage in conversation with their child at home in the afternoon or evening. We hope you enjoy reading and learning about how much takes place during your child's day at Heartworks.

## ***Happy Thanksgiving***

*From all the staff in Williston, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving filled with special moments with your family as well as safe travels. We are very thankful that you are part of our school community.*