

Welcome to the 2011- 2012 school year. We are glad you are here!



The beautiful Farm Barn at Shelburne Farms, main campus and home of The Renaissance School.

We have been together at school for a month now. Everyone in the school has settled into a rhythm and the days are going smoothly. The children are enjoying their classroom studies, foreign language, art, drama, music, living arts and farm education. We have had beautiful warm

weather this September, and the teachers have planned activities outside to take advantage of the sun. The children have had picnic snacks, longer recess, lessons outside under a tree, and hikes to Lone Tree Hill. We are also looking forward to the cooler days of autumn the change of seasons and the learning and fun that will take place on the farm. We want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new and returning children and families at The Renaissance School. We hope you all have a peaceful and happy fall season.

~ Leah

Halloween

We will celebrate Halloween on Monday, October 31st . We will have a costume parade starting at 8:40 followed by a skit put on by the teachers at 9:00 in the lounge area at school. We welcome everyone to join us for this event.

In keeping with our belief in classical education, we kindly ask that you refrain from sending your child to school in scary masks, or clothing that includes images associated with current television or cinematic themes

and any costumes that have a weapon as an accessory. In particular we are wary of the influence of superhero type characters. The children should arrive at school in their costumes but they should also have extra clothes to change into after the parade.

Each class will have a special Halloween celebration with a special treat, but we ask that there be no candy brought to school. Please see Leah with any questions about Halloween.



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Library News



We are off to another wonderful year with the library. We hope you will enjoy the many books we have in “The Renaissance School Library”.

If you would like to take out books from our library, please fill out the card that is located in the cover of the book. Kindly write your name and date on the card. After filling out

the card, place it in the beige flowered box located on the front desk. When returning the book, place it in the return drawer located across from Danielle’s room.

Books that are taken out by the children during class time should be returned to the teacher by your child.

Have a great school year!

“With every season there is a right time to do and to learn. We help in finding the right season for growth, for optimal learning and for enrichment.”

~ Louise Piché & Diane Rooney
Founders



Full Moon Campfire and Picnic Dinner

We thank the parent group for organizing a special campfire and picnic dinner that took place on Monday, October 10th at the farm. There was a campfire, singing, and a picnic dinner, all under clear skies. We hope everyone enjoyed the event.

7th and 8th Grade Planning Group

At the recent parent nights, Diane Rooney spoke about creating a planning group with regard to increasing our programs more fully into the 7th and 8th grades. We know there are a number of families that would appreciate this option for their children and the benefits of remaining in a small, familiar setting during the sometimes challenging middle school years.

While many families have continued at Vermont Commons School for 7th grade, there are others who have felt that having 7th graders with high school age children can sometimes introduce issues that a 7th grader is not yet ready to handle. If you have an interest in being part of this discussion, please let Diane know. Her email is diane.rooney@heartworksvt.com.

Amazing Postcard Project

This year Kristy’s third grade class is participating in a very exciting activity! One teacher from each state, as well as Canada and Mexico, has volunteered to represent their state/country. The Renaissance third graders will work together to write a detailed description of Vermont which will include important and interesting facts. They will also include what it is like to live in Vermont and to go to school at The Renaissance School. The children will then write a postcard to each state. The postcards will be mailed in late October. Kristy’s class will start to receive postcards back from the other states/countries in early November. Kristy will display these postcards in the hall so that everyone can learn interesting facts about the different states/countries. The children are looking forward to participating in this wonderful opportunity!

The First And Second Grade Haiti Project

Jocelyn and Nicole’s classes are learning about communities this fall. In relation to this social studies unit, these classes were visited by guest speaker Fran Stoddard, who spoke with the children about an orphanage in Haiti. With generous help from caring citizens in Haiti and other parts of the world, the children, who belong to this small orphanage, are reaping the benefits of “community”. Fran shared information about Haitian culture, as well as uplifting stories and photos of the children in the orphanage, with The Renaissance First and Second grade children.

This allowed our students to see the difference “community” can make in a child’s life. Jocelyn and Nicole’s classes are developing a correspondence with the orphanage and plan to send some support to their special community. As a result, the classes hosted a bake sale on Friday, September 30th, to raise funds to send to the orphanage. Community “movie nights” are becoming very popular in this Haitian community as well. For this reason, The Renaissance first and second graders are also sending old (gently used) family DVD movies to the orphanage.

If you have any DVD’s you would like to contribute to our package, please see Jocelyn or Nicole.



Farm Chores and Farm Education

The children do farm chores on Tuesday and Friday mornings with Caroline. On these days two children from each class help to take care of the animals in the farm yard. This is a rotating schedule so the children will have many opportunities to be a farmyard helper. The tasks that they are in charge of are: feeding the donkeys, feeding the rabbits, and feeding the chickens and collecting eggs.

The children participate in farm education once a month. Each classroom is assigned an

educator from Shelburne Farms. The educator works with the classroom teacher throughout the year to incorporate their theme studies and the farm environment into an enriching hands on lesson. This fall many of the children have participated in harvesting vegetables from the market garden, making homemade pizza, and learning about simple machines to grind wheat. Farm education is an exciting time to be outside exploring and learning about our environment here at Shelburne Farms.

Kindergarten Harvest Lunch



The Kindergarten class has taken on their role as farmers and gardeners. We have been very busy working in the gardens and learning about the animals while helping with chores.

We have harvested tomatoes and we made tomato sauce. We will be going apple picking and then baking apple pies. The children are very excited about their

Harvest Lunch, on Thursday, October 27th, where they will be hosting their parents. They will be serving homemade tomato sauce and pasta with bread and butter that they baked. For dessert they will get to share their individual apple pies with their families. Following the lunch they will be sharing their animal projects and their Farm Family Trees. Keep a look out in the hallway for these projects!



Contact us:

Phone: 802-985-8209

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On the web: www.heartworksvt.com/renaissance

Late Care

Children who stay for late care will be transported by bus to Heartworks in Shelburne at the Commons. Late care is from 3:15-5:30. There is a signup sheet at the bottom of the stairs if you need late care for your child. Please sign their first and last name and check off the day that late care is needed. We can transport thirteen children per day. The late care bus leaves promptly at 3:30. At this time the bus is just for bringing children to late care and not for transporting children to the Commons for a pick up in the parking lot. The fee for late care is \$18.00.



Arrival and Departure Time

We request children arrive on time for school, which begins at 8:30. It is also important that your child not arrive more than ten minutes before class, as teachers need the time before 8:20 to complete their preparations for your child's day. If you need to drop your child off earlier than 8:20 please bring them to the early care teacher.

We request children be picked up promptly at the close of the school day (3:00). Please call the school if a change in plans is necessary. A written note is requested if there are changes in a child's after school plans (i.e. a visit to a friend, a doctor's appointment, etc.) Forms are provided in each classroom for this purpose.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will be held on Friday, November 4th at the Commons. There will be no school on this day. Conferences will also be held on Monday, November 7th, this is a half day of school with a noon closing. There will not be a lunch period on this day, but the children will eat snack. Conferences are a time for the teachers to share each child's progress. It is also a time for parents to ask questions, to share successes, and voice concerns. The school director (Leah) will often be present in several conferences to also hear about a child's progress. When conferences are over each teacher meets with the school director to share any questions or concerns that might have been discussed. Following the conferences the teachers will send home a written narrative about each child's progress in all areas at school. Conference signup sheets will be posted in the upcoming weeks on the classroom parent boards.



Lake Champlain sparkles in the autumn sunshine as seen from the beautiful grounds of Shelburne Farms.