



Harborlight Happenings

ABCs and Authors

Welcome to 2012! We are looking forward to a new year of growth, learning and fun. Your children will continue to grow in leaps and bounds in the next few months as winter turns to spring. We often observe big changes in the children at this time of year. Please read more about how we are looking at their progress in the article below.

As you may recall, in December our thoughts turned to all sorts of math concepts. This month the teachers are introducing literacy concepts with lots of work with letters, words and books. Not that any of

that is restricted to this time frame, but right now our special concentration will lie in providing many opportunities for letter immersion. The latter part of the month, and beginning of February the teachers will choose the works of certain children's authors to enforce literacy concepts as well as to explore the concepts presented within the story line of the books. We will let you know the authors we choose for each class.

We are always happy to have you join us at any time, but if you, or someone you know, has a bent for

writing and language and things to share with children, we would especially love to have you join us at this time. Speak with your child's teachers to arrange for a visit.

Please note two changes in the format of this newsletter. The "dates to note" are immediately to the right of this section and the birthdays for January and February are on page 2.



Progress Reports

The teachers are busily accumulating their observations of your child at school so that they can prepare a progress report to send home in early February. Each report considers the unique development of each child as our developmentally appropriate philosophy dictates and tries to give you an accurate picture of your child's development at this time. Social and emotional growth, speech and language, concept

and art/science awareness, and both large and fine motor development are areas that will contain a short check list describing your child's strengths as well as a written narrative. The key to the progress report will explain the "not present," "emerging," "developing" and "mastered" status of your child at this time. Children are growing eve-

ry minute so we find that changes can occur from the moment of preparation of the report to the time you meet with the teachers on parent's night! This is the first of such reports you will receive this year, the second will come at the close of the school year. For more information about assessment you may want to review pages 11 and 12 of the school handbook.

Harborlight Nursery School

Volume 10, Issue 5

January/February 2012

Dates to Note!

Jan. 16– No school
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Jan. 29– Pancake
Breakfast

Feb. 7–Parent's Night

Feb. 13 and 14
Valentine's Parties

Feb. 20-24
No school-February
Vacation

January and February Birthdays



Happy Birthdays, Friends!

Registrations for the 2012-2013 School Year at Harborlight and Public School Kindergarten

If your child will be returning to Harborlight Nursery School next year, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible. If you deferred your registration fee, it will be due Jan. 15. The spaces fill up quickly so to be sure you get the program schedule you are interested in, we must have your registration form soon! The T/Th/F spots in particular are limited in number.

If your child will be moving on to kindergarten next year in Beverly, registration packets will be available at each elementary school site and on the Beverly Public Schools' website, www.beverlyschools.org, starting on Jan. 9. All registrations for kindergarten must be returned on Jan. 23 - 25 at the Memorial Building, 502 Cabot St. Hours for drop offs will be 8:30a.m. -7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. If your child will be attending kindergarten in another community, contact that school system for more information. If you are unsure about your child's readiness for kindergarten, please speak with Elly or your child's teachers.

Toddler Time-Happy Hearts

Children 18 months to 3 years of age with a parent or caregiver are invited to our next Toddler Time, **Happy Hearts**, on Feb. 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the orange room. This is open to both Harborlight siblings and families as well as to children and families who are not currently part of



our Harborlight community, so please spread the word. Space is limited, so we ask that you register with Elly if you plan to attend. This program includes a story and song time, snack and craft. If new families are interested a tour of the school will be offered as well.

Time to register for school next year!

Snow Days and Bags

Here are some snow day reminders. We will call you in the morning if we are going to be closed for the day because of inclement weather. Do not depend on the decision of the Beverly Public Schools for our status, though most likely if they are closed we are too. But sometimes they close because of considerations that we don't have, like busing, and sometimes they have delayed openings. Consequently we will make a decision for our school separately. As is true for both private and public concerns, none of us have crystal balls, so we will make the best decision we can regarding the need to close.

Whenever we have snow we try, once we are back in school, to go out on the playground. Generally there may be a delay until the gate gets shoveled out. But once we can get there, the children need snow clothes or changes of clothing so that they will be warm and will not be wet for the rest of the day in school. We sent you a bag just for this purpose and hope that you will



**Let it snow!
We are ready!**

use that to pack up the children's labeled clothing. Really cold days, with or without snow, might require those extra clothes as well.

If you would like to purchase some more of these bags for shopping or other uses, please let us know, send in your payment (\$2/bag) and we will return them to you in your child's backpack.

Valentine's Day Parties

Valentine's Day parties at Harborlight will be held on Monday, Feb. 13 and Tuesday, Feb. 14. As part of their regular school day the children will exchange valentines, play special games, have a party snack and enjoy a day especially given over to friendship, sharing and cooperation. It's nice to have a day to hold up

these everyday values, to enjoy one another's company and to celebrate love! Ah, such a welcome diversion in the midst of a wintery month! The brightness of Valentine's Day with its cheery red is a highlight in February. Children



will prepare a valentine receptacle to collect their valentines. All children are asked to bring a valentine for each of the children in their class. Help your child sign each one, but do not try to address them. It is easier to make a general delivery stop in the morning when your child comes to school. We will be looking for some helpers in each classroom and some donations of special snack items. A sign up sheet for this purpose will be posted in February.

Parents' Night

Parents are invited to the second parents night of the year on **Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m.** We will meet briefly in the chapel and move to the classrooms to see all there is to see and speak briefly with the teachers. We remind you that you are welcome to set up a conference at any time with your child's teachers if you wish to have a more extended conversation.

Pancake Breakfast

Harborlight Nursery School is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning, Jan. 29 at the Vittori Rocci Post. You may be acquainted with the fact the Post offers this fundraising opportunity to community groups. This morning event will give you a chance to go out for a pancake breakfast at a reasonable cost while enjoying the company of your child's friends and

families and benefiting the school. We will be hoping to pay for some enrichment activities with the funds earned from this event. We hope you can join us. The tickets, \$4/adult and \$3/child will be on sale at the school on Jan. 11 and 12 or may be ordered through backpack mail. Watch for more information.

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