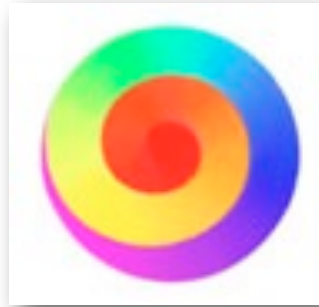


The Rhythm of Hearthstone

Spring & Fall 2010 Newsletter

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www.hearthstoneschool.org
Nursery/Kindergarten
through 12th Grade

Welcome to a New School Year at Hearthstone

Written by: Hearthstone School Core Council
Members



We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new faculty members, students, and families. And welcome back to our returning families and staff. We are looking forward to a productive and exciting school year. Thank you for all your hard

work and cooperation which keeps our school vibrant and strong.

Fundraising Efforts at Hearthstone

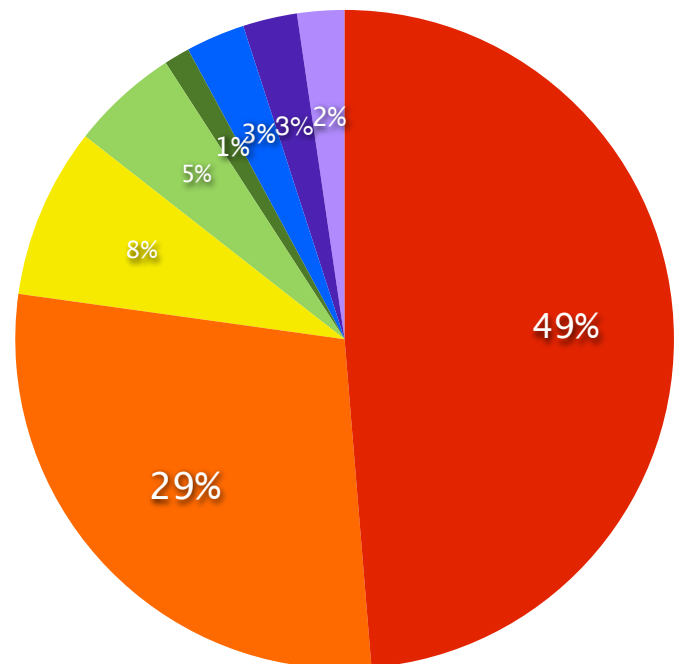
Written by: Liz Shaw

Hearthstone School holds fundraising opportunities and events throughout the year including bulb sale, auction, holiday bazaar, organic chocolate, boxtops, grocery stores, cartridges for kids, annual appeal letter. Last year Hearthstone School began a fundraising challenge in which an anonymous donor offered to match up to \$50,000 of raised funds for our school. We met that goal. Each year we have succeeded in our fundraising efforts. This school year we must raise \$100,000 to keep our school thriving.

Fundraising Efforts from the 2009 -2010 School Year

(Does not include \$50,000 matching grant)

- Annual Letter of Appeal to Donors
- Annual Auction
- Other Fundraising
- Holiday Bazaar
- Cartridges for Kids
- Innisbrook Fundraiser
- Flower Bulb Fundraiser
- Grocery Store Donations



Hearthstone Students Join the Pennies for Peace Campaign

Written by: Julian Bauchspies
Photographs by: Jane Mullan



After reading “Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortenson, the fourth and fifth grade classes decided they

wanted to help build schools for the children of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The class started their very own campaign for peace by joining with the Central Asia Institute and collecting pennies for *Pennies for Peace*. The *Pennies for Peace* program is a non-profit organization that donates thousands of dollars to Afghanistan and Pakistan for the primary use of building schools so the illiterate children can get the education they deserve. Created to encourage children to learn, *Pennies for Peace* has built over 100 schools in the Middle East since 1996 purely with donations from people like you. *Pennies for Peace*



donation jars are located throughout the school, in the Rainbow Market, the Corner Store, and the Oldway Art Center. The deadline for collecting the donations will be December 17, 2010.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Written and Photographed by: Liz Shaw

In September the middle and high school students took a field trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the National Museum of Natural History. The purpose of the field trip was to view the ancient mummies from Egypt and the various ancient Greek artifacts on exhibit for a limited time. This field trip enriched the learning experiences of each student by giving them an opportunity to see actual mummies and actual ancient Greek artifacts. Seeing the rare mummies may have been a once in a lifetime experience for the students and teachers.

History Field Trip to Montpelier

Written and Photographed by: Liz Shaw

Last April the Hearthstone middle and high school students travelled to Montpelier, the home of former President and Founding Father, James Madison and his wife Dolley. After touring the home our group was given the opportunity to observe an archaeological dig located on the property of Montpelier, conducted by the archaeology department of



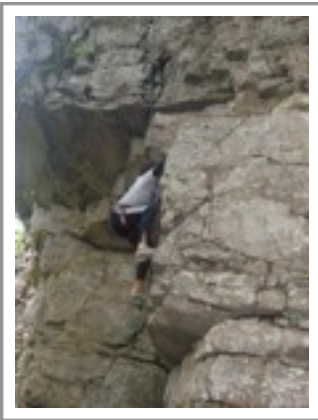
James Madison University. There were hands-on activities located across the property. The students conducted their own archaeological dig, then toured the archaeology laboratory. They were able to do

handwork that was common in the early nineteenth century, such as sharpening hand tools, woodworking, and blacksmithing.

Spring Outdoor Program

Written by: Josh Casper

Photographs by: Tamara Hager



The Outdoor Program took place last May in the George Washington National Forest, in Fort Valley, Virginia. Attendees included Hearthstone School teachers and students from grades three through

eleven. The highlights of the program included fishing, rock climbing, hiking, orienteering, and camping.

The outdoor program was designed and led by Aron Weisgerber, a teacher at Hearthstone School. This is what he had to say about the experience this past spring: "The location was very diverse, giving us the opportunity to practice and hone multiple skills, including rock climbing, wild food preparation, and primitive camping skills,

within a small national forest. The orienteering exercise was very beneficial for the students and overall I think that the location and exercises we completed were successful."

Earth Day Celebration

Written & Photographed by: Liz Shaw



We had a busy Earth Day this past April 22! The classes started off the day in the garden, at the vernal pond project Ms. Tamara and the high schoolers spearheaded. The pond is located in our wetland area in the gardens. In the spring it had hundreds of wood frog tadpoles residing in it. Salamanders and other wetland creatures have found the vernal pond as a home and a safe place to lay eggs. On Earth Day we planted black willows, alder trees, dogwoods, marsh hibiscus, cardinal flowers, black eyed susan's, milkweed, boneset, and sedge around the vernal pond, all of which are native plants that will thrive in the wetland.

Later that morning we loaded up the van and headed out to Old Hollow Rd., a few miles from Hearthstone School. There we picked up trash along the roadside until lunch. The road was strewn with old cans and bottles; after we finished, the sides of the road were greener and cleaner!

After lunch we all met in the community room for the presentation of the students'

science fair projects. Each year for the past three years the students have been asked to conduct a science fair project based on sustainability, recycling, energy alternatives, endangered species, wildlife, plants, etc. The science fair is held on Earth Day every year. This year the projects ranged from



"How to Make Bio-Diesel" to "The Gray Wolf".

Plant Medicine Field Trip

Written & Photographed by: Liz Shaw

The fourth and fifth grade class traveled to Charlottesville, Virginia on April 26 to visit Kathleen Maier at Sacred Plant Traditions, an herbal medicine school. Kathleen is a former Rappahannock County resident and Hearthstone School parent, who has studied plant medicine for years.



We learned about the gardens, school, and apothecary at Sacred Plant Traditions. The students' curiosities were ignited from the experience. The fact that the very ground we walk on holds medicines to cure us, was amazing to learn. Common plants, such as the plantain and ground ivy, are now seen as having a unique purpose - they are medicine.

Seed Saving Field Experience

Written by: Josh Casper

Photographs by: Liz Shaw



Southern Exposure Seed Exchange is a local seed saver catalog that offers many varieties of heirloom, non-genetically modified, and/or organic seeds that grow well in the mid-Atlantic region as well as other latitudes that are comparable. The middle grades through high school went to their farm and office for a special tour and discussion with Paul Blundell, co-manager of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange.

Paul explained the different varieties of seeds they sell through their catalog. We had lunch, then we toured the property with River, who showed



us the gardens that contained different varieties of tomatoes, onions, garlic, peppers, greens, and cabbage. There are around 23 people who live and work at SESE. It was an educational and fun field trip, we learned a lot about the importance of seed saving. We hope to use some of the skills and ideas learned at SESE at Hearthstone in our gardens in the future.

Winter Ski Lessons

Written by: John Casper



Each January Hearthstone School attends a ski program, which lasts for six weeks at Massanutten Ski Resort in the Shenandoah Valley. The ski

program includes skiing and snowboarding lessons, lift passes, and equipment rentals.

Massanutten has fourteen slopes. The shortest ski slope is called Nutten-To-It, which is 800 feet long and perfect for the beginner. The longest ski slope is called ParaDice, it is 4,100 feet long, and is categorized as a black diamond slope, which means it is one of the most difficult slopes to traverse.

THE ARTS AT HEARTHSTONE

Project Pledge

Written by: Cheryl Crews

Photographs by: Liz Shaw



On April 27 and 28 Hearthstone School hosted a gathering of artists, musicians, students, and teachers for the illustration and painting of a mural to illustrate the pledge,

“Earth Allegiance”, created by Hearthstone parent, Cheryl Crews. The pledge known as “Earth Allegiance” was created to celebrate a global allegiance, and was also a call to protect our wild spaces and critters.

The ultimate vision for the pledge is for other schools and communities to come together for the common good of art, community, and preserving our planet.

Culinary Arts Field Trip

Written by: Margaret Dunn

Photographs by: Margaret Dunn



On April 15 the high school culinary arts class took a field trip to Café Torino in Warrenton, Virginia with their instructor and

local chef, Marguerite Dunn. The students went to Café Torino to discover what goes on in a restaurant, behind the scenes. The students were able to observe how a kitchen operates, from the morning preparation to what happens when the doors are open for business. The class was able to experience what it takes to prepare food, and get it out of the kitchen to the customers.

Weaving Fibers: a Family Tradition and Way of Life in Oaxaca, Mexico

Written by: Josh Casper

Photographs by: Julian Bauchspies

On October 13, fiber artist Wence Martinez, from Oaxaca, Mexico came to Hearthstone School and presented a slide show and lecture on weaving wool. Mr. Martinez taught

us about sheering sheep for wool, spinning wool, growing cacti to farm the bug, cochineal, for red dye, other natural dyes, using looms, and weaving wool rugs and ponchos.



Wence Martinez was born in 1959 in Teotitlan del Villa, Oaxaca, Mexico. He is a full Zapotec Indian. He began weaving

under his grandfather and father's instruction. In 1974 he entered the National Institute of Weaving in Mexico City with a scholarship. In the late 70's he did weaving and paintings of Edmundo Aquino in his private studio. The year of 1988 he met an artist named Sandra; they would spend their lives together. From 1994 to the present Wence and Sandra have run the Martinez studio in Jacksonport, Wisconsin where they both have their works on display.

Thank You Newsletter Class

Written by: Liz Shaw

This year, Hearthstone high school students have joined in the process of creating our school newsletter and yearbook. This is the first newsletter with the added journalism "staff". The students are very busy during our journalism class. Their duties include taking pictures, interviewing people, researching topics, writing summaries or reviews for the newsletter, and peer editing each other's work. There is a great deal of typing and learning how to manage certain programs such as Microsoft Word, Mac Pages, email, and Adobe Photoshop. This is great practice in 21st century skills. Great job, guys!

FESTIVALS

May Day Celebration & All Games Day

Photographs by: Sonia Burbulis



Michaelmas

Written & Photographed by: Liz Shaw

Each year around September 29, Hearthstone School celebrates Michaelmas, a holiday widely observed and celebrated in the Waldorf world. Michaelmas is the feast and celebration in honor of St. Michael, the conquerer of darkness, archangel of light. This celebration is seen as a reminder for us to strive for more balance between darkness and light as we discover new inner resources

which can help us to grow towards life and light.



This year's celebration included the timeless tale of *St. George & the Dragon*, retold by Kitty Keyser and the nursery/kindergarten class; a musical performance by Linda Orfila's first and second grade class; grades four through seven performed a comical adaptation of the Greek myth "Demeter & Persephone", and the middle school and high school performed several seasonal songs with our new music teacher Keith Lovett.

Holiday Celebrations

Written by: Liz Shaw

At Hearthstone, holidays are celebrated during each season.

Thanksgiving at Hearthstone is celebrated on the Tuesday before the holiday. Each class makes a dish to serve at the feast, and each family brings a prepared dish to share. The students present a blessing or share what they are thankful for before the meal. This is accompanied by a musical performance.

Our Christmas celebration is all encompassing, acknowledging all world religions. We sing and light candles in our advent spiral. A music performance follows our advent spiral, then snacks and drinks are provided while the children exchange hand-made gifts before going home for their holiday break.

The nursery/kindergarten and lower school,

on their annual lantern walk, stroll through the town of Little Washington singing songs of light to various businesses, the jail, and churches on the darkest day of the year.

ACADEMICS AT HEARTHSTONE

Along with the adjunct classes of music, pottery, gardening, woodworking, drama, journalism, yoga, physical education, art, crafts, life skills, culinary arts, and Spanish, each grade is studying the following:

Nursery/Kindergarten

In nursery/kindergarten the children hear fairy tales and join in rhythmic poems with movement intertwined throughout, sharpening their phonetic and speech skills. The children draw forms and begin shaping letters and numbers. They also focus on nature throughout the seasons. Cooking and baking are integral parts of the week during which math and science are integrated into the experiences. Watercolor painting, beeswax modeling, and crayon drawing are an important part of daily activities. The nursery/kindergarten uses all natural materials in the classroom, and organic ingredients in their baking and cooking.

Lower School

In the lower school the students are reading creation myths and Saint legends. Their studies include nature study, measurement, times tables up to twelve, adding and subtracting, watercolor painting, form drawing, baking, cooking, playing the recorder, weaving and knitting primitive fibers, felting, and singing seasonal songs.

Middle 1

In the beginning of the year the combined fourth and fifth grade class students were immersed in the studies of Greek mythology and ancient Greece. The class read the novel "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: the Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. The students have written their own modern versions of Greek myths, and they have also performed a play based on the myth of "Persephone and Demeter".

In science the students have extended their knowledge of botany to the study of trees, also known as dendrology. The class took several field trips to the Shenandoah National Park to practice tree identification while learning how to use a field guide. They observed the different processes of a tree according to the season.

In math the students have reviewed fractions and the four processes. Decimals have been a central theme to math lessons throughout the year. Currently the class is studying geometry and numbers while observing the influence of ancient cultures upon mathematics today.

Middle 2

In the combined sixth and seventh grade math class the students have studied Ancient Greece and Rome. Architecture and laws have been emphasized. A short biography on a Roman philosopher was created. Grammar has included diagramming sentences. The class is reading "On the Far Side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George.

In math the students are working with decimals, fractions and changing from one to the other, as well as operations with both. The class has tied math into the study of astron-

omy by making a scale model of the solar system. In science the class has been learning about constellations, the life of a star, our moon, and the Greek history and myths surrounding the solar system.

High School

The high school class is studying early 20th century American history.

In english the class is studying poetry and have written their own sestina poems and haiku. The class has read various novels and writing papers. The class has written 100-word summaries on excerpts from their english text.

The high school is studying physics this year . Currently they are working on a unit studying heat, light, and sound. They have done some fun experiments, including turning the classroom into a giant camera, learned how to rig solar panels to lights, and canceling sound waves with a household speaker. They have learned about the properties of waves as well as how to calculate wave speed, frequency, and wavelength. In math the high school is studying geometry.

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, December 4, 2010 - Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, April 9, 2011 - Annual Auction

Sunday, April 17, 2011 - Open House