

Hearthstone School, a Leader in Education, Gets \$50,000 Challenge

A generous fund-raising opportunity, “Double the Dollars Campaign,” has been given to Hearthstone School! A donor who sees the valuable contribution that Hearthstone makes to its students and the community, as well as its exciting growth potential has offered to meet up to \$50,000 in matching donations. For every dollar that they are given, they will receive an additional dollar.

Hearthstone School’s innovative Waldorf inspired methods teach children how to learn and how to think for themselves. Hearthstone was one of the first schools in the five county area to incorporate organic gardening into its curriculum. Hearthstone was the first school to bring in musician Paul Reisler to write songs with the students, spawning Kid Pan Alley which has produced many local concerts and several CD’s. Hearthstone was the first school in the five county area to offer a week of integrated camping and academic study in the woods. It has been at the forefront of using ski trips and canoeing expeditions to strengthen self-confidence and cooperation.

Through the use of hands-on science, the power of story, the enlivening arts and community service, Hearthstone ignites the fire within a child, structuring epic experiences along with daily skill building and creative problem solving. The science program includes such activities as stream monitoring, the creation of a vernal pond, Outdoor Classroom week and ongoing organic gardening. Reading and writing are taught by the students creating their own books, focused on a three to four week in-depth look at one subject, such as science, history or literature. Math is taught from textbooks yet is also experienced through practical application. The students have the benefit of hearing the great tales of human history. These stories are told to meet the development of the children at each age level, making use of the brain’s deep wiring. Children learn a variety of musical instruments. Singing, acting, drawing, painting, sculpting, woodworking and gardening classes are incorporated into the academic curriculum. Community service projects have included performing with senior citizens the music from their era as part of history and music class, volunteering at orphanages in Costa Rica and Mexico and collecting items for relief efforts in Haiti and New Orleans.

These experiences lead to children who are learning how to learn and think for themselves. The students have an appreciation of the intricate web of life, the importance of thoughtful action and the power of bringing beauty into a world of hardship and heartache. Hearthstone School educates children in ways that enable them to go into their communities with unique skills and strong characters in addition to academic prowess. Hearthstone students will be the problem solvers who think outside of the box. They will approach their careers with intellectual flexibility and compassion. They will know how to persevere and collaborate. They will be prepared for the twenty-first century with its unprecedented complexity and challenges.

Hearthstone’s priorities for 2010 are to continue to make available a hands-on, arts-based education to families of all income levels and to maintain its on-going environmental programs while continuing to examine and decrease the school’s carbon footprint.

Hearthstone is asking the community to participate in the “Double the Dollars Campaign.” Please give from the heart as Hearthstone gives to the hearts of children. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Hearthstone School, PO Box 247, Sperryville, VA 22740.