

The Rhythm of Hearthstone

2012 Newsletter

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

Experiential Learning

Busy Bees

Photographed by: Terrence Malloy



Kathy Edwards, a beekeeping enthusiast, came to our school on September 4th and shared a recently vacated honey bee hive with the students and faculty. She took this opportunity to show the difference between actual honey comb and brood comb (where the queen lays eggs). The students were excited to see, touch, and learn about all the honey bee products created in the hive. She also emphasized the respect we need to have for the honey bee because they are so necessary to our survival.

Geology Field Trips

Written by: Aron Weisgerber
Photograph by: Tori Rupert

The Hearthstone School high school seniors are fortunate to study geology in a place surrounded by such a diverse range of geologic features. A fieldtrip to Red Oak Mountain provided a perfect view of local formations and



an introduction to local geology. We took two self-guided tours along Skyline Drive studying the geology of Shenandoah National Park. We traveled to George Washington National Forest and walked the “Story Book Trail” to learn and see firsthand the geological progression over millions of years that separates the two mountain ranges.

Teaching Spanish

Written by: Tori Rupert

I am a high school senior in my second year at Hearthstone. I live in a household where Spanish is spoken by my mother and grandmother, therefore I speak Spanish fluently. I have also traveled to Spain four times.

In the beginning of January 2012, I started a Spanish teaching internship in Mr. Aron’s 8th Grade classroom. Each week we review homework and what we have earned the week before. After our review, we start progressing and learning new concepts in Spanish and how to incorporate them into conversations. I feel like the 8th Graders are grasping the language and improving quickly. I really enjoy teaching Spanish. It has been an incredible opportunity in which I have learned to adapt and to find new ways of teaching that benefit myself as well as the individual and unique needs of my students.

Movement Class

Written by: April Strickler

Movement class incorporates eurhythm and is taught to every grade by Kitty Keyser, a certified Waldorf Kindergarten teacher with 30 years experience teaching movement and dance.



Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf education, believed that learning begins with movement; joining appropriate movement and gestures with classroom lessons such as math and grammar. This enables the learning to go deeply into a student’s entire being and not just into their heads.

Bells Are Ringing

Written by: Samantha Whitesides

Last year students in grades first through fifth began exploring the sounds and techniques of ringing children's handbells. Stories of handbell history and change ringing are also a part of these classes. This year, fourth and fifth grade students continue their journey in applying music notation skills, along with ringing together as a choir. Classes experiment not only with creating their own tunes but also take time to enjoy lessons in tempo, rhythm and playing by "ear". One of the fourth and fifth grades' favorite exercises is in ringing ostinato patterns, with a repetitive tune of three or four notes intertwined.



The Lower School's first and second grades are taking great pleasure in using handbells in the classroom as well. As the school year progresses, it is our hope to integrate the handbells into more music classes and to feature handbell ringing in school activities and presentations.

Kid Pan Alley

Written by: Samantha Whitesides

Since its inception, the annual collaborative visit of Kid Pan Alley and singer/songwriter Paul Reisler have been a part of Hearthstone School's curriculum.



Their teaching and group participation utilizes and inspires students' own song writing efforts.

Younger students began by generating ideas of concepts that they enjoy (such as horses or rainbows) while others pieced together sentences to tie in the main concept. After everyone had voted on their favorite lines (there were many they had created to choose from), the bulk of the work had already been accomplished! In just one hour, everyone had contributed and the melody was fully formed! The song the students created began with "There's a unicorn, jumping over rainbows." The chorus belted out, "I can feel it, I can feel it, I can touch the sky!" Our students performed their song at Rappahannock County Elementary School on November 30th and recorded a CD which is for sale at Hearthstone School and other venues.

History – Civil War

Written by: Aron Weisgerber

This year the 8th Grade Class studied the American Civil War. This course was filled with dozens of reading assignments. These reading assignments were aimed at painting the broadest and most factual perspective of the time period. To truly understand, and to learn from the past we need to attempt to experience it first hand, even if that means using our imaginations. We visited a Civil War reenactment where the students were encouraged to relate to what it was like being on both sides of the war. The students put themselves in the shoes of the soldiers by crawling into the tents, seeing the rifles fired and visiting local sites. They wrote a two-page essay on what it was like marching as a confederate or a union soldier.



The secondary objective of our Civil War block was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, by revising the "Local Sites of the Civil War" book, written and distributed by Hearthstone School students in 1999. This revision will involve adding new sites, photos and stories to the book. The 8th grade class will continue working on this project throughout the year by gathering new stories, visiting additional sites and taking new photographs in and around Rappahannock County.

Southwest Native Dancers



Hearthstone School hosted a special performance of Southwest Native Dancers led by Eagle Bear. They are descendants of the Warm Spring Apache people, Nakai Clan.



Their presentation for the first hour included singing, dancing and story-telling. The second hour was an educational lecture by Eagle Bear which

included their history and was open to discussion and questions. Before leaving Hearthstone, they were served a home-made lunch by the Nursery/Kindergarten Class.

High School Service Trip

Written by: Tori Rupert

Last spring in early May, the High School class took our annual service trip to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. While we were there, we helped replant native grasses and created a habitat to attract oysters and other sea life.



Replanting native dune grasses

Our class worked together with the North Carolina Coastal Federation in transporting and planting over 3,000 grasses native to the North Carolina wetlands. Later in the trip, we visited Jockey's Ridge State Park where we moved oysters into the water to draw in other plants and animals to create a thriving habitat for sea life. After we had built the habitat, we were able to spend the day exploring the dunes of Jockey's Ridge.



By working along side the North Carolina Coastal Federation, we were able to help conserve the natural beauty



and productivity of the coast, and meet some incredible people. Being in the Outer Banks, working and spending time with each other was a great experience, one that will not be forgotten.



Stone Soup and Love Bread!

On Tuesdays the Nursery/Kindergarten bakes "Love Bread" and on Thursdays they make "Stone Soup".

The Nursery and Kindergarten Class start learning about counting when making soup and bread. The children acquire such skills as sequencing, measuring, safety awareness, following directions and development of fine motor skills as they chop a specified quantity of vegetables for the soup and prepare, knead and shape the bread. They also cook a delicious pot of soup and yummy bread that can be enjoyed by the entire school.

Love Bread

First, last and most important ingredient in this recipe is love
Begin with love
Then in a large mixing bowl, add clean, fresh warm water and honey, a gift from the bees, add a handful of yeast stir and let ingredients



set in bowl for about 1/2 hour

Wait for the bubble magic to appear
Next add about 1/2 cup of olive oil and dry organic ingredients including: spelt flour, yellow corn meal, sea salt, oak flakes and flax seed.

Mix into a good doughy texture and shape into your hearts desire; small spirals, nest and



eggs, hearts, braids...
Place bread on a floured baking sheet to let rise for about 1/2 hour
Bake with love at 350 degrees (according to the thickness of your bread)
Smell will tell

Outdoor Program

Written by: Julian Bauchspies

From May 14th to May 17th, 2012 the Hearthstone High School embarked on a backpacking trip through Shenandoah National Park from Big Meadows to Hazel Mountain Trail. Bringing food and other provisions with them, they traversed many miles of winding trails through the mountains while weaving their studies into the natural world.



On May 16th, the High School met up with the Middle School students who then accompanied them for the final day of travel. After finishing their journey, the students eagerly went home to take showers and return to society.

Learning through the natural world!



Base camp



Left, Teacher, Aron Weisgerber, prepares student for rock climbing by doing a final safety check on his harness.



Left and above, students on rock face.



All school spring hike to Old Rag April 2012



We started off the 2012-2013 school year with an all-school hike to White Oak Canyon.

Canoe Trip

Written by April Strickler

Each school year at Hearthstone we end the school year with our annual canoe trip, dinner and campout. The entire school community is brought together for this celebratory gathering, which begins with a great day of canoeing / kayaking on the Shenandoah River and ends with a communal dinner at a beautiful river-bank campsite. This trip is sponsored by John Gibson and the Downriver Canoe Co. of Bentonville, Virginia.

License to Slide

Written by April Strickler

The coming of the cold winter season means ski/snowboard school at Hearthstone. One afternoon a week, for six weeks, in January and February, students, staff and parents head to Massanut Mountain for ski and snowboarding lessons. Meeting and conquering physical challenges such as these help to foster self-confidence and empower young people to meet life's challenges.

Field Trip to RappFlow Program

Hearthstone High School and Middle School students attended a field trip to the RappFlow (Rappahannock Friends and Lovers of Our Watershed) Program on September 19, 2012.

This was a program on our local watershed and stream preservation. There were demonstrations on water monitoring and other activities. Other local area schools were also invited.

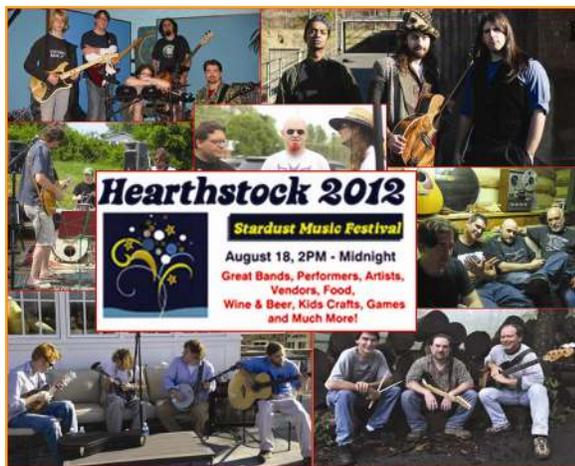
“From a gurgling Thornton River rich in microinvertebrates to a marshy rain garden effectively slowing runoff, the big outdoor classroom offered hands-on, interactive opportunities to learn about the importance and vulnerability of Rappahannock County’s water resources” -- By Daphne Hutchinson

Fundraising

Music Festival & Tribute Concerts

Written by: Samantha Whitesides

This has been an active year for combining musicians and fundraising. Last spring, Hearthstone School hosted a special Beatles-inspired concert event that benefitted our Scholarship Fund, lovingly named – ALL TOGETHER NOW. This dinner and musical event highlighted the various creative talents of area musicians, all centered on the BEATLES band, music and film. All entertainment was provided by several area bands who donated their time, including: The Gold Top County Ramblers, Cactus Moat and our special “house band”, The Stink Bugs (led by Robert “Smiggy” Smith including two Hearthstone parents, Joe Whitesides and Rafe Ruggiero). The Beatles cover band, Pigs From A Gun also offered their eclectic interpretation of the Fab Four. The individuals involved were: Joe Pipik, Bob McDugal, Pati Brumfield, Jim Carter, Tommy Gros, Gordon & Jacob Loughlin, Jensen Kvarnes, Robert Alcott, Nancy Peacock and a few of our teachers such as Charis and Terrence Malloy, as well as the talented Linda Orfila. Our evening was rounded off with a surprise performance by Jane Mullan and Kevin Weisgerber our school’s co-founders. At the end of the four hour event, a combined finale roused a standing ovation as the audience repeated the well-known phrase, “All You Need Is Love”. Indeed! The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all.



Next, we had the First Annual Hearthstock Music Festival, Stardust 2012. This summer festival featured multiple live bands on an outdoor stage under the sun, moon and stars of the beautiful Shenandoah sky. Vendors offered their homemade wares and services, while others such as Erik the Viking and Soolah Hoops showcased their special talents to the crowd. Additionally, there were massages and a musical therapy tent on the premises. During the day, a variety

of children’s games, face painting and moon bounces were available and lots of delicious foods were sold. The pasture raised beef for the hamburgers was donated by Hearthstone grandparents George and Laureen Gennin. The unique ‘Stardust Cocktail’ had sold out before the end of the day, while all drinks were served in our own Hearthstock cup! Commemorative items also included Stardust t-shirts which were designed by our art teacher Davette Leonard.



The main feature of this festival, the MUSIC - offered rock, pop, blues, bluegrass and funk! Bands such as Cactus Moat, Pigs From A Gun, Sleepfeeder, Shortness of Breath, The Gold Top County Ramblers and our own Stink Bugs played well into the night. Then Soolah Hoops performed with her hoops of fire!

The lovely and well-experienced Karen Henderson provided the MC services for both musical fundraising events! It simply wouldn’t have been the same without her! Hearthstone School is sincerely thankful for everyone – EVERYONE – that made an appearance, planned or participated in one way or another. Lots of love to you all!

News

Hearthstone Presents Free Talks on Solar Power in Virginia

At the Rappahannock County Library on October 25th and November 15th of last year, Hearthstone School sponsored two educational talks on solar energy and its viable applications in our community. Attendees learned about the history of passive and active solar energy, how the power of the sun can be used in residential and large scale settings, the environmental and economic benefits of solar power, and more! There was plenty of opportunity for questions and exploration, making the talks appropriate for everyone from students with a budding interest in solar and alternative energy solutions to the well-informed power consumer.

Solar Expert Sam Cochrane (Hearthstone parent), a NABCEP certified solar contractor with Renewable Energy Solutions, Inc., presented the talk and slide

show. Kevin Weisgerber, Treasurer and Core Council Member at Hearthstone School, also discussed the solar project he and Mr. Cochrane are currently developing that will power the school with 100% solar electricity, or photovoltaic power.

Hearthstone is seeking financial assistance for its solar system. Those interested in investing, backing, or donating to the school's solar project should contact Kevin Weisgerber directly at 540-987-9465.

Christmas Parade

Hearthstone won 1st Prize for its "Winter Wonderland" float in the 2011 Christmas Parade in Little Washington.



TV Interview



We'd like to acknowledge and thank the locally-supported, community television network, Virginia Living TV for interviewing our school earlier this summer. Their segment, 'It's All Local' with India Rose and Adam Forster interviewed Jane Mullan, our school's director, and April Strickler, a board member, which gave a thorough overview of Hearthstone's past, present and future.

Facebook

"Like" us on Facebook and find out more about the latest happenings at Hearthstone School.

Catalog

Order gifts all-year round from the Hearthstone School Catalog. It can be found on our website and Facebook page.



Van Service Available To & From Culpeper



Back by popular demand, our school's van service to and from Culpeper is up and running. Pictured here is our driver and Nursery/Kindergarten teacher, Sylvie Blank.

Fairy Tale Walk

Written by: Samantha Whitesides

This year's Fairy Tale Walk offered warmer temperatures as students, parents and visitors enjoyed a festive walk around the school's grounds. Each outdoor "stage" was softly illuminated during the time parents, students and volunteers brought to life the family stories of our childhood.



"Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair..." parent Rebekka Korte is portrayed here as 'Dame Gothel'.

Below, student Brooke Meade as a mermaid.



The scenes took place one at a time as guest from the community observed. Transitions of bell ringing and recorder helped shift the crowd to each story, while children in costume paraded around in excitement.

The first story began at the Lower School. It then progressed around the back of the school where mysterious pumpkins and props were found hidden amongst the leaves and trees. Tiny candles continued along the foot path to the new outdoor stage area, where the last two presentations took place. One of those stories was a unique version of Hansel and Gretel that was performed as a shadow play. To end our evening, everyone enjoyed warm soup, popcorn and cider in the Community Room. Skits we enjoyed that evening included Little Mermaid, Rapunzel, Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk and Hansel and Gretel. It was a fun alternative to a traditional Halloween.

Tobacco Free Campus

Hearthstone School would like to announce that it is now a tobacco-free campus. No Smoking Please!



Festivals

“Celebrating seasonal festivals is a way of observing and showing appreciation for the recurring rhythms and cycles in nature. As Earth makes its journey around the sun, the solstice and equinoxes become the four cornerstones of the year’s rhythm. They inspire our seasonal festivals in themes that are universal and culturally diverse.”

--- Laurie Marshall, Hearthstone School co-founder

May Day Celebration 2012

Written by: April Strickler

We greet the beautiful Blue Ridge spring at Hearthstone School with our May Day Festival. With spring comes the promise of renewal and rebirth.

The ancient Romans celebrated springtime by honoring Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and spring. Flowers were gathered and strung into long garlands. The Roman youth would dress in brightly colored clothing and carry these garlands to Flora’s temple. There they would wind them around a huge marble column. This was known as the Festival of Floralia.

In the British Isles the ancient peoples celebrated the Festival of Beltane on May 1st. On this midway point in the year a huge bonfire was lit. The fire was thought to add life to the burgeoning springtime sun. More recently in history on May 1st the British people of a village would find the tallest tree in the forest, cut it down and erect it in the town square. These May Poles were thought to ward off evil during this time of transition from the darkness of winter to the light of spring and summer. May Poles were traditionally decorated with flowers and ribbons. Villagers danced around the May Pole singing songs.

The two May Poles are the centerpiece of Hearthstone School’s May Day Celebration. The May Poles are decorated with flowers and ribbons are attached to the top. Students, teachers, family and friends gather there.

While holding the ends of the ribbons they move in song and dance around the May Poles and thus weave an intricate pattern. Each year a new and different colorful pattern is woven with the ribbons on the May Poles. After the May Pole dance games are played. The older students plan and lead these games for the younger students. Food and drinks made in cooking classes or brought from home by parents finish off this joyous celebration of spring.



Thanksgiving Meal

Written by: April Strickler

Each year at Hearthstone School students, teachers, family and friends gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving Day and to eat a community meal. Every class from the Nursery/Kindergarten up prepares a dish to be served along with dishes brought from home by parents. Before this abundance of food is eaten each class recites a verse, reads a poem or speaks words written by students explaining what they are thankful for and why.



Hearthstone School
Community Thanksgiving
Celebration on
November 20th, 2012



Advent

Written by: April Strickler

At Hearthstone School we celebrate the season of winter with our Advent Garden a Waldorf school tradition.

In ancient times as the days grew shorter people would reduce ordinary daily routine to a minimum. They gave in to the nature of the season and came away from their work carts and wagons. They would bring the wheels from those carts and wagons indoors and decorate them with greenery and lights. It was a time of looking inward, of waiting and hoping for the sun’s light to return.

Advent is celebrated on the last day of classes before the winter holiday break. A large spiral path of evergreens is laid out on the floor. It is adorned with rocks, shells and plants. In the center of the spiral is a tree stump decorated with greens and sparkling crystals. Upon it is a large candle. Along the spiral path are other tree stumps with nothing on them. The room is darkened. The center candle is lit. Each student, teacher, family member or friend in turn take a small candle inserted into an apple and slowly walk the spiral path to the center. There they light their small candle from the large center one. As they walk back out of the spiral path each person sets their candle on one of the empty stumps. When every one has had a turn the Advent Garden path is now aglow with the light of candles. The Advent Garden is a symbol of the winter darkness which gives way to the longer days of springtime light.



“In the Advent Garden, dark the night below, Earth is waiting, waiting, waiting for the stars to glow.”

We Welcome a New Faculty Member



Terrence Malloy, our new high school teacher now in his second year at Hearthstone, is originally from northeastern Pennsylvania. He majored in anthropology and graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame. He later moved to Los Angeles to study and work in film. While there, he continued to develop his interest in education, working

as a private tutor through an educational psychologist. Terrence became interested in the work of Rudolf Steiner and Waldorf education, and soon after began his Waldorf training at Sunbridge Institute. Terrence is a lifelong student of holistic health, wisdom, history, language, and communication. He enjoys fresh mountain air, yoga, playing his guitar, cooking, and writing. He has also recently begun studying and apprenticing in the Japanese healing art of Jin Shin Jyutsu.

“My favorite moments of teaching are watching students in the process of discovery, when they make a new connection or spark their understanding, especially when it relates closely to their lives.”

— Terrence Malloy

Upcoming Events

Open House

Sunday, April 21, 2013, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Visit our school, see classrooms, meet the teachers, view student work

Annual Auction

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Viewing & Silent Auction begins at 4 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 5 p.m.

Appetizers, wine and cheese will be served



SUMMER DAY CAMP
at Hearthstone School
A Waldorf-Inspired Program
3 to 12-year-olds
Dates To Be Announced

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES

SUMMER CAMPS 2013

Imagine
Learn
Explore
Create
Discover



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Build Friendships
Find Your Home In The Wild

Visit us at

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Rainbow Market
a non profit store — helping locally

ORGANIC

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 (at the Hearthstone School Building)
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