

The Rhythm of Hearthstone

2013 Newsletter

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Nursery/Kindergarten
through 12th Grade

Experiential Learning

Outdoor Program

The Spring 2013 Outdoor Program challenged Hearthstone's Middle and High School students to meet daily tests of will as they hiked along the Appalachian Trail to a new campsite every night in the Shenandoah National Park. The highlights of the week included the beautiful waterfalls at Camp Hoover, and hiking across Big Meadows, Old Rag Mountain and White Oak Canyon.



For the first time the 4th/5th Grade Outdoor program included an overnight camping trip.



High School Service Trip

The spring 2013 High School service trip to the Outer Banks, North Carolina was a great bonding/learning experience for students and teachers.

We worked with the North Carolina Coastal Federation in their rain garden, planting and mulching. When rain falls on surfaces such as rooftops and parking lots, it flows over these hard surfaces and collects pollutants. This polluted stormwater runs into fragile coastal waters and degrades the health of creeks, rivers and sounds. Rain gardens help to reduce polluted runoff.

Classroom News

5th/6th Grade



Students have begun an exciting year in music class. They are all playing a stringed instrument under the tutelage of Manabu Nagase, our new music teacher. The 3rd graders are participating in this music class by learning to play violin.

The 5th/6th grade students sang all seven verses of *This Land is Your Land* by Woodie Guthrie for our Michaelmas Celebration.

Fantastic clay and art lessons continue this year with Ms. Jill and Ms. Davette. Please enjoy our new garden site, complete with amazing fencing by student George Fleming and Fairy homes by Lillie Burbulis and Brooke Meade. Joseph Gros helped with planting cold weather crops.



The 5th/6th grade class completed the 1st Geometry Block and the Ancient India Block. They are now in the midst of their Botany Block. Class reading books completed and enjoyed were: *Worth* by A. LaFaye and *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry.

Air & Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center



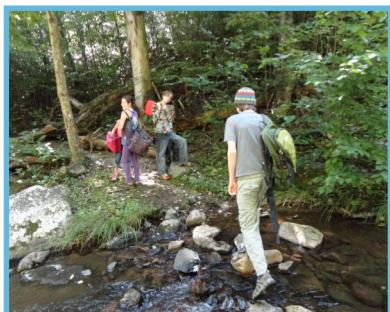
In the Spring of 2013 the 4th through 8th Grades took a trip to the Air & Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. This supplemented their Physics class, in which they were studying aerodynamics, hydraulics and lifts.



All-School Hike

At the start of the 2013-2014 school year the students, faculty and family members of the Hearthstone community participated in a hike on the Hazel River Trail. Noah Waller's dogs, Blaze and Kylee, joined them.

Hazel River Trail is a beautiful mountain path with spectacular scenery and a lovely waterfall at the end, making a long walk worthwhile. Because the trail is not frequently used, it is a very peaceful and quiet hike. The Hazel River is about 47.8 miles long, and it serves as a tributary to the Rappahannock River.



Theater Field Trip



The High School class and Hearthstone associated homeschooleders visited the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia on October 3, 2013. They watched a production of Romeo & Juliet and were also treated to a backstage tour where they met the actors for a question and answer period.

College Open House Trip

The University of Mary Washington's Open House was the destination for Hearthstone's High School on November 11, 2013. The day's events included a presentation on admissions, a meeting with the academic department representatives, and a campus tour.

The High School will visit other colleges throughout the school year.

Orchard

Hearthstone School has begun an orchard, thanks to our High School students who lovingly planted three apple trees, one flowering cherry tree, and one flowering pear tree. We plan to add more trees to our orchard in the future.

Civil War Day

On Friday, September 27, 2013, students from Hearthstone's Middle and High School attended a Civil War educational school day at the Visitor Center in Little Washington, Virginia. Members of the 7th, 8th and 17th Virginia Infantry demonstrated and discussed guns, black powder, and issues soldiers confronted in their daily lives. Students learned about the creation of the Confederate flag, the clothing that kept the soldiers warm, and facts about life and death during the Civil War.



Dances of Universal Peace at Hearthstone

At the start of every school week, all students and their teachers come together in the Hearthstone Community Room for a brief session of Dances of Universal Peace. The idea is that we begin our week by moving together in harmony.



The dances, most of which are performed in a circle, combine simple movements with songs and chants from spiritual traditions from around the world. The themes are peace, love, the Divine, nature, and the unity of humanity. Through the music, students become acquainted with foreign phrases and stories from various cultures.

Dances of Universal Peace are very much in keeping with the spirit and purpose of Waldorf-inspired education. Parents are welcome to join us. No experience or dance talent is necessary!

Corn Maze



Kate and Hub Knott, former teachers of Hearthstone School, hosted our annual trip to Kate and Hub's Corn Maze & Barnyard of Fun. The corn maze is located on Rt. 245 in The Plains, Virginia. Each year's maze has a different theme and the theme this year was owls. As the students move through the maze, they find clues which tell them where to go, using questions about this year's theme. The Barnyard of Fun has an obstacle course for the students to race through, and many other activities. The students have been enjoying this trip for many years now and will continue to do so next year.

Biology



High School Biology class monitoring the health of the Thornton River during their study of invertebrates, macroinvertebrates and crustaceans.



Handwork

"The hands are a unique and beautiful part of the human being, and they bring us important, far-reaching experiences. A child's hands need to become skillful, sensitive and strong so that they can accomplish many wonderful deeds. Nothing happens if you don't use your hands and get to work!" (taken from *The Importance of Handwork in the Waldorf School* by Patricia Livingston). Whether they're learning wood carving, sewing or endless styles of knitting, all grade levels at Hearthstone benefit from developing these skills.

Rappflow Field Day

The Middle School participated in the Rappflow Field Day in Sperryville, VA on October 26, 2013. Students learned about watershed management through visiting various demonstration sites. Three of our favorites were the erosion and farming exhibit, the Park Rangers' identifying trees exhibit and the Smithsonian salamander exhibit.

Hearthstone Welcomes Mr. Manabu, Violin & Music Instructor

New to this year's music program is Manabu Nagase, who blends his unique musical talents with a modified Suzuki approach that fits in nicely with our Waldorf strings curriculum. Twice a week, he conducts group violin instruction to mixed grades (third and up) as well as private, individual instruction to some of his students.



A Waldorf school's curriculum brings upper grade students a more challenging musical experience, while maintaining a sensitivity to their stages of development. Strings classes are unique because children have reached the age when they are able to develop not only as individuals but as part of a class that moves together.

This year, students new to the instrument were introduced to the history and fundamentals of the violin and are quickly advancing to note reading, solos and ensemble work. Class time also focuses on refining rhythm and tone. Ms. Justine our, 5th/6th grade teacher, and a violin player herself, is able to assist and offer support.

All students have been provided with their own quality instrument. They are each responsible for its care and maintenance, as well as taking it home routinely to practice and refresh what they have learned each week. We are pleased to have Mr. Nagase, who says that he is very excited about sharing his culture and background with the students.

Events & Fundraisers

Auction



On April 28, 2013, Hearthstone School held its Annual Auction fundraiser. Always a fun event, this year's auction highlight was the "Mystery Item" for which the bidding was spirited and filled with humor. Our next auction will be on April 26, 2014. We invite you and your family and friends to join us.

Culpeper Day Festival

At Culpeper Day Festival, Sylvie Blank, one of our Nursery/Kindergarten teachers, discussed our curriculum, enrollment specials and programs while offering fresh popcorn to our visitors.



Hearthstock: The Stardust Music Festival Returned for Its Second Year

When it comes to people and entertainment...and folks who yearn to give back to the community-at-large, Hearthstone School is quite gifted. We successfully planned and celebrated another summer concert festival that featured many local musicians and entertainers. Although there are a variety of things this event has to offer, such as face painting and pony rides, we always maintain our focus on the quality shows performed on our outdoor mini-stage.



Thank you to ALL who came out to enjoy the day and evening, and a special thanks to all our volunteers! We lovingly thank the bands, musicians and performers for their time and talent. Our complete list of performers is as follows: Kim & Allen Snow's **Orange Cloggers**, Acoustic Guitarist of Fredericksburg **Karen Jonas**, **Bobby G & Friends** (Bobby Glasker, Johnny Pierce, Mike Walton & Paul Norris), **Three Piece Box** (Terry & Noah Waggener and the infamous Robert "Smiggy" Smith), **Pigs From A Gun** (Dan Mudge, Brian Chafin & Colin Chinsammy), **The Stink Bugs** (Rafe Ruggiero, Josh Lowe, Robert Smith & Joe Whitesides), **SleepFeeder** (Casey Firkin, Ike Sours & Dave Sylvester) and the band **Kiaya** (Kiaya Abernathy, Nan Helm, Bill Abernathy, Jack Doman & Michael Pollack), **Soolah Hoops** and **Eric the Viking**.



EcoTulips

We had a successful ORGANIC BULB fundraiser in October. Thank you, EcoTulips.

Texas Longhorn Beef

This fall we had the popular, annual Gennin Longhorn Fundraising Sale of local and grass-fed beef. A special thank you goes to George and Laureen Gennin for their generous support.

Hearthstone Catalog Now on Etsy!

Our school catalog is now online through our Etsy online store! Take a look — more items will become available in the weeks to come, so visit often. Check out our popular felt, wool and weaving kits.

Oktoberfest: Wursts, Pretzels & Potatoes... Oh My!

Teachers and students alike participated in an evening of food, drink and festivities for Hearthstone's first Oktoberfest this Fall. The event drew a well-rounded crowd of children and adults who feasted upon a hearty German buffet meal, including local bratwursts donated by Gennin Longhorns of Madison County.



Thanks to Ms. Samantha for managing the overall kitchen and menu options, as well as cooking for her first time on the school's commercial-grade gas stove.

Ms. Sylvie, our German & Knitting teacher in the Lower School, donated her time and energy, providing child care, activities and snacks. She was also responsible for providing the traditional blue and white decorations that her children had helped to make.

Oompah and Alpine-Style music softly filled the background and blended nicely with the smells wafting from the kitchen.



We are grateful for a successful event which could not have taken place without the help of our teachers: Justine, Aron and Davette; students: Lillie, Brooke and Julia; and parents: Mark Meade, Toni Hitchcock and Rebekka Korte, a former parent.

Save the Frogs

Students, teachers and friends made ceramic frogs of various colors and sizes and raised \$335 for Save the Frogs. The frogs were sold at our summer music festival and in Rainbow Market.

SAVE THE FROGS! is the world's leading amphibian conservation organization. Their mission is to protect amphibian populations.

Fairy Tale Walk

On November 1, Hearthstone hosted its annual Fairy Tale Walk, in which staff, parents and students enacted scenes from favorite fairy tales. The grounds were decorated with artfully carved pumpkins, and tiki torches lit the pathways. Our new music teacher, Manabu Nagase, dressed as the Pied Piper and, playing his violin, led the audience through the darkness from scene to scene: Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, and (a new twist on an old tale) Jack and Jill and the



Beanstalk (rewritten by the students). Hansel and Gretel featured the Lower School, led by Ms. Sylvie, singing *Hansel and Gretel* in German.

Grants Received

Hearthstone is thankful to the following groups that contributed to our programs.

Hearthstone School received several grants in 2013. A \$500 grant came from the Rappahannock Farm Bureau and went towards funding our gardening projects.

The Northern Virginia Community Foundation awarded us \$500 as part of the Richard Lykes Community Fund Grant. This helped fund our classroom computer projector.

We received a \$1500 grant from the Nina Elizabeth Nilssen Scholarship Fund. This money was used to help fund our violin program, paying for violin repairs, cases, tuners, music stands and shoulder rests .

Alumni News

2013 Graduates:

Congratulations to two of Hearthstone's 2013 graduates, Tori Rupert and Julian Bauchspies. Ms. Rupert was awarded a 97% scholarship to Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. Mr. Bauchspies was accepted to Geijerskolan in Ransafer, in Varmland, Sweden, where he is studying Swedish language and culture.

Other Alumni News:

In May, Vanessa Dunn received her Masters Degree in early childhood education from James Madison University, and has begun teaching in the Culpeper County public school system.

Kiaya Abernathy graduated in May from the University of Virginia, with a Bachelors Degree in anthropology.

Victor Rogers was accepted to and is attending the University of Hawaii.

Special Thanks

All Hearthstone families support the school with membership hours worked each month. Not only does this keep our tuition one of the lowest for private schools in the area, it also keeps our school running smoothly. We would like to thank our hard-working community members. Our school could not get along without this essential participation.



Valentine Appreciation Dinner



To show their appreciation, the Core Council and High School Culinary class prepared a meal for the parents and staff .

Upcoming Events

Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7, 2013

Open House on April 13, 2014

Annual Auction on April 26, 2014

Music Festival: Hearthstock 2014 on August 9, 2014

Cookbook coming in 2014: Hearthstone School's very own cookbook, "Love Bread & Stone Soup," will be published.

Proceeds from this cookbook will benefit the school's programs. It will include recipes from current and past Hearthstone families. Several of the things we prepare on a routine basis here at the school, such as our special LOVE BREAD, will also be included.



Summer Camps: Every summer, camps are offered through Hearthstone School. Waldorf-inspired *Summer Day Camp*, for children ages 3-12, includes such varied activities as storytelling, watercolor painting, basket making and dance.

Music Camp offers children an introduction to hand bells, percussion instruments and basic music notation.

Mountain Adventure Camp offers day camp to children ages 4-13 where they experience swimming, hiking, rock-climbing, learn wildlife and plant identification, survival skills and more. Backpacking camp is offered to teens ages 13-17.

2014 camp dates will be posted on our website.

Rainbow Market
*a non profit store –
benefitting Hearthstone School Programs*

ORGANIC

Mon. -Fri. 9-5; Sat. 10-5;
Sun. 10-2
11576 Lee Hwy, Sperryville, VA
(at the Hearthstone School Building)
2 miles west of Sperryville

Natural Foods
Health & Beauty Products
Amish Butter & Cheese
Local Honey
Vitamins & Homeopathics
Essential Oils
Gifts, Toys, Books
Clothing, Jewelry, Candles
& Much Much More!

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