

The Rhythm of Hearthstone

2016 - 2017 Newsletter

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Nursery/Kindergarten
through 12th Grade

Awards in the Arts at Hearthstone School



Congratulations to Hearthstone School art students Vjörka Brooks and Joseph Gros, (pictured here with Hearthstone School Art Teacher and talented local artist Davette Leonard) who won two of the top three awards in the 6-8 grade

category in the Shenandoah National Park's 2016 Youth Arts in the Park Wildflower Contest. In addition, Vjörka Brooks won "Best in Show" for her watercolor painting titled Jack-in-the-Pulpit in Shenandoah National Park. Joseph's entry was an acrylic painting titled Bloodroot. The contest was a nine-county competition and was part of Shenandoah National Park's annual Wildflower Weekend, a special event focusing on the value and diversity of our native woodland flowers. The art work was displayed at the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center.

Musical News



A guitarist, singer, and songwriter for many years, Maddison Hicks has joined Hearthstone School for the 2017 year.

Ms. Maddi encourages each student to learn the fundamentals of music as the foundation for a fruitful lifelong relationship with song and sound: reading notation and/or tablature, ear-training, composition, basic music theory, and an intro to instrument-specific styles. While developing this solid foundation, she prioritizes time spent delving deeper into the student's personal interests and goals, learning to cover favorite songs with style, writing songs for cathartic fun, and sharing a love for listening by swapping playlists of songs and artists.

In her first three months at Hearthstone, Ms. Maddi divided her class time into the following segments:

Music theory: Using manuscript paper and worksheets, we have learned to read and write all of our notes on the staff in treble clef.

Reading and playing notation: Students are able to read and play simple written notation.

Composition: They discussed song structure, lyrics, chord progressions, and instrumentation in the process of writing three songs.

Exploratory instrumental work: Together they explored a variety of instruments belonging to different instrument families.

Ear-training and listening: The class listened to select pieces that coordinated with repertoire expansion, dissecting the pieces by ear.

Repertoire expansion: The current repertoire focus is American music and its international influence.

Middle School



Hearthstone School would like to welcome its new Middle School teacher, Trevor Pennington. Mr. Trevor obtained his Bachelors of Arts in History at the University of Mary Washington and is in the process of finishing up his Masters at the University of Marburg in Germany where he is studying Literature and Cultural Studies. He has taught English and World Culture to middle

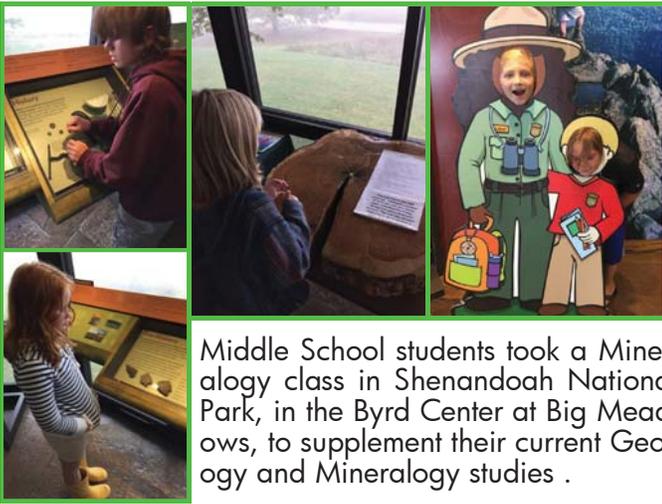
and high school students in Germany and ran a middle school program for seven years through Culpeper Baptist Church. He has taught middle school children gardening, cross-country running, hiking, and poetry. Currently living in Sperryville, he is an avid outdoorsman and athlete (also a Triathlete).

Inspired by the Middle School curriculum's study of the Knights of the Round Table, our school's theme this year is "Good Deeds." Students will be tracking, researching, conducting and documenting "Good Deeds" throughout the year.



Middle School students work on building a rock wall at the top of the school's driveway as part of their Roman Studies project.





Middle School students took a Mineralogy class in Shenandoah National Park, in the Byrd Center at Big Meadows, to supplement their current Geology and Mineralogy studies .

Nursery/Kindergarten

Excerpts from The Waldorf School of Philadelphia blog, Loving Learning, at phillywaldorf.com/blog/. The Harvard Education Letter The Washington Post, January 2015

The Waldorf Kindergarten

There is a deeper level of social, emotional and academic learning in the Waldorf Kindergarten that is a pervasive undercurrent in the daily rhythm of our early childhood classroom.

Here are four unique aspects that make up a Waldorf Kindergarten and differentiate it from some of its more mainstream counterparts in early childhood education:

Play Based Learning

Many early education experts are recommending a swift return to developmentally appropriate, play-based learning in early childhood.



Making natural paints from poke berries.

The Harvard Education Letter concurs, calling the early childhood trend of, “scripted curricula and reduced recess” a matter of “serious concern.”

“Research shows greater gains from play-based programs than from preschools and kindergartens with a more academic focus” – The Washington Post, January 2015



The reality is children learn all kinds of imperative skills through play. Self-directed play promotes neural pathway development, hones social skills and peer navigation, advances large and small motor skills and strengthens motor planning and coordination.

This does not mean, however, that teachers only facilitate a play environment. The children think their day is filled with play, but teachers are focused on the children’s developing skills.

Pre-Academic Experiential Foundations

Storytime in a Kindergarten classroom is especially important in the Waldorf approach to teaching reading, which develops a child’s comprehension skills before phonics.

Listening, comprehending and imagining what is said in spoken word is key to future reading, comprehension when words on a page must go beyond the stale script and develop into a richness in their minds.



Sensory Integration

The Waldorf Kindergarten cultivates a deepened awareness of the senses and works towards deepening essential sensory development in young children.

The sensory richness of outdoor play-time in Nature has other amazing brain benefits as well, including boosted cognitive performance, reduced anxiety, improved test scores and much more.

As Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods,” says, “Time in nature is not leisure time; it’s an essential investment in our children’s health.”

Parenting Class



Lisa Powers serves as facilitator. She has presented this program at Hearthstone in previous years, and to other groups in and outside the U.S. through the nonprofit organization Fivefold Path, Inc.

The Parenting Program/Support Group meets on Tuesday afternoons in Hearthstone’s Community Room, and is open to all Hearthstone families. The pur-

pose of the program is to help parents and children experience more love and joy in family life. The classes offer ways to improve family relationships and help children develop self-esteem, learn responsibility, and grow to their fullest potential. A variety of practical suggestions for solving family problems are explored. The program covers such topics as parent-child interactions, family interactions, and outside influences.

Participants may submit any specific parenting issues that they would like to discuss. The group works on finding solutions and options based on such principles as truth, nonviolence, forgiveness, sharing, self-discipline, karma (“reap as you sow”) and self study. Participants take an active role in the program, through group discussions, role-playing and other activities.

Lisa Powers has worked at the Hearthstone for twenty years; her three children attended Hearthstone.

Hearthstone Happenings 2016!

Ms. Kiaya and Paul Reisler worked with Hearthstone School students (below) on a new song for this year's Kid Pan Alley concert. Hearthstone students, musicians and participating schools appeared at the Rappahannock County Elementary School in Washington Va., on September 23, 2016 to perform their songs.



Hearthstone School Annual Holiday Bazaar



Corn Maze



Chinese New Year

Lower School students reading to the dogs.



N/K with The Berry's Little Lamb.



Nursery, Kindergarten and Pre-1st went to visit the Miniature Horse Farm to meet the newest member of the mini horses.

Thank you, Ms. Sally and Mini Whinny Therapy Horses.



May Day Celebration



Easter Egg Hunt!



Grass Fed played at our February Beatles Valentine's Benefit Concert. Grass Fed pictured here with students onstage singing, "Yellow Submarine." Thank you, Dan, Colin and Brian for your generous and continuous support of our school!

Middle School painted a world map on our basketball court as part of their Geography Block.



Hearthstone Happenings 2017!



Phys. Ed. Archery Class

With its origin in the mind of a child, a thing of beauty and hope for all is created. Teacher and artist Laurie Marshall carried the idea to Hearthstone School, where the students and members of the school's community gathered to bring it to life.

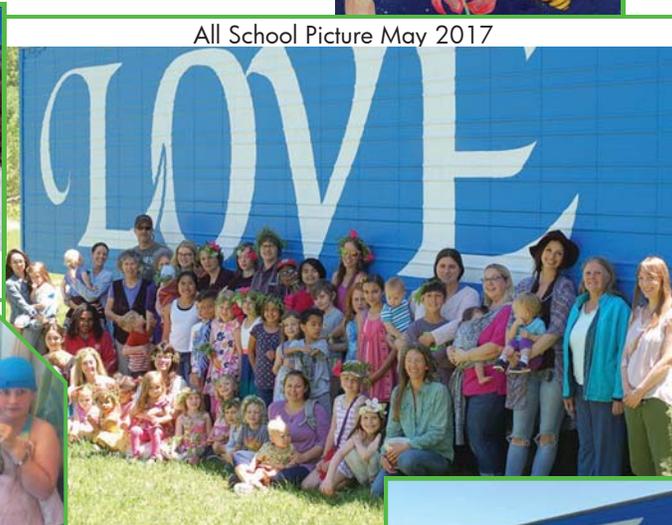
A Dragon's Blood Tree (Right) with roots of children's hands grows from the earth as a child holds it. Endangered animals are shown as healthy in a world that is supported by a child's loving arms. Thank you, Laurie Marshall, for sharing your vision, heart, and talent.



2017 Spring & Fall Community Tween Mixers



Phys. Ed.'s Outdoor Program takes to the slopes!



All School Picture May 2017

The LOVE sign painted by Ms. Davette and adorned with flowers by her Middle School art class is very popular with the tourists!



Phys. Ed. Swim Class at Powell Wellness Center.



Middle School's Outdoor Program: hiking, camping and canoeing.



Hearthstone School participated as a vendor in the Annual Culpeper Fiesta & Celebration of Latino Culture. Available at our booth were art class painted rocks from our cam-



pus, and paints for decorating the top sides. These were to take and "hide" around town for others to find. This was for the pure purpose of spreading joy, as celebrated in photos on the Culpeper Rocks Facebook page.



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Hearthstone's Annual Fairy Tale Walk Where Stories Come To Life!

Ms. Jane's Drum Class rehearsing for the Fairy Tale Walk.



Rapunzel



Cinderella

Core Council rehearsing for The Little Red Hen.



The Elves & The Shoemaker

Hearthstone Helpers!



Aron and Melanie Weisgerber, parents/teachers

who do everything from bush hogging to gardening, Phy. Ed., skiing, outdoor program, archery, Latin instruction and N/K assistance.

Thank you, Aron and Melanie!

Larry Shepard has been cutting our grass and making the grounds safe and beautiful for our children for almost ten years. He does a great job and we are truly grateful.

Thank you, Larry!



Rebecca Lanham continues the work of bringing our library up-to-date by cataloging and converting everything into the Dewey Decimal System.

Thank you, Becki!

All Core Council (Board) members at Hearthstone School give a tremendous amount of volunteer hours each and every year. We would like to recognize members Torry Keane and Samantha



Whitesides for their tireless efforts on behalf of our school. They donate many hours, from planning and hosting our essential fundraisers, to hiring our wonderful teachers, to the daily maintenance of the building, it is all overseen by our core council volunteers.

Samantha and Torry, we thank you.



These are just a few of the many Hearthstone Helpers! A heartfelt **thank you** to all who have contributed to our school over the years!

Dramatic Presentations

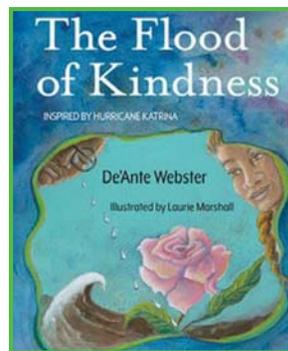
2016's All-School Production of the Dramatic Play:

Magic In Me emphasizes how special every person is. Equipped with nothing more than a toy shovel and pail, little Do-Nothing Dale appears to be a wizard in name only. Laughed at and excluded by her colleagues, Magnificent Mervin and Wonder Wanda, Dale sets out on a journey to find her own "little bit of magic." Queen Marilyn Melody of Musicland and Coco the Clown, King of Laughterland, do their best to help her, but it's not until her encounter with the evil Weatherman on the Planet of Sad Flowers that Dale discovers just what it is that makes her unique. This highly imaginative story gently teaches while serving up a large portion of fun and folly, with bright musical numbers. Hearthstone students re-wrote two of the songs, to give the show added sparkle.



Hearthstone's Theme of "Good Deeds" to be Translated Into Original Play

Middle School students will be using the Waldorf approach of incorporating poetry, music, art, drama, crafts and story as they learn science, social studies and math related to "Good Deeds." By focusing on one theme throughout the year, and one academic subject in depth for three to four week blocks, the students are exposed to a multi-disciplinary and wholistic approach to knowledge.



As part of this learning approach, Hearthstone is inviting the community to participate in an original, intergenerational play called "The Flood of Kindness—Inspired by Hurricane Katrina," based on a book of the same title. The book was written by De'Ante Webster of Indianapolis at the age of eight for a 3rd grade historical fiction assignment. It was illustrated by former Rappahannock resident and co-founder of Hearthstone, Laurie Marshall, who now lives in northern California. Webster and Marshall worked for six years to make a story to help children cope with massive weather events. In it, a boy's memory of his best friend, who died in the flood, magically helps kindness return to New Orleans where anger, division and mistrust had taken over.

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Focus on Alumni

Matt Powers attended Hearthstone from 1999-2002. Hearthstone's small class size helped Matt develop his computer skills, and in middle school he began creating websites. In 10th grade he transferred to Madison High School, where he graduated 4th in his class of 147 students. After high school he took a year off during which he started a web design business. Matt then attended James Madison University, and graduated from the School of Media and Design.



After a trip to Poland in 2008, he was inspired to learn green-building. He built a 10' x 12' cabin next to his parents' home, where he now lives.

In 2012 Matt realized he wanted to get off the computer and do something he felt passionate and positive about. He became interested in solar; that spring he started working for Entero Energy in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Hearthstone parent Sam Cochran's solar company. Since then Matt has worked in Maryland, Colorado, Virginia, Texas and Georgia installing solar. Most solar in the world has been installed since 2007, so he was lucky to get involved "early," by industry standards. Building his cabin was good preparation for solar work, as knowledge of construction is needed.

In spring, 2015, Matt launched his own company, Virtue Solar, which has completed off-grid solar projects, commercial projects, and residential systems.

To date, Virtue Solar has installed thousands of solar panels. Matt writes, "Working with renewable energy allowed me to work with my hands, use my brain, and, for the most part, get off the computer. I think we need to transition to sustainable means of living, and this was a way that I could help facilitate that transition."



Growing up in Madison, actor and Hearthstone alumni, **Sean Haggerty** had no family connections to the entertainment industry. He landed a featured background extra role as a rookie cop on "The Wire" when it was filmed in Baltimore and he wound up working

closer to his Virginia home as a stand-in on the first two seasons of AMC's "TURN: Washington's Spies." — Richmond Times-Dispatch, 2016

Photos of former alumni, Alex Gibson, Matt Powers, Daniel Vaughan and Aron Weisgerber working together on recent solar installations.



Josh Casper graduated from Hearthstone School. After a recent visit he was able to share the good news of his acceptance to the University of Fraser Valley's Coastal Pacific Aviation Flight School. He will be studying Aviation and Business Administration to get a private and commercial pilots license. "My goal is to be a pilot with a major airline someday."

Vanessa Dunn is from Rappahannock County and currently lives there with her family. She started attending Hearthstone School in 1996 and graduated in 2006. Vanessa continued her education and received her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies with a minor in Inclusive Early Childhood Education from James Madison University. She then continued to complete her M.A degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education. Vanessa has been teaching in Culpeper County for 5 years. She is a current member of the Hearthstone School Core Council and Virginia Education Association. This year Vanessa will hold her second summer camp at Hearthstone School.

Vanessa Quotes:

"We cannot control where our students come from. When they walk into our classroom, it may be the best place they will ever be."

"Creating good, kindhearted students who are excited about learning matters more to me than how much they know academically by the end of their preschool year."



Upcoming Events

- ♦ December 9, 2017 Holiday Bazaar
- ♦ February 9, 2018 Beatles Valentine's Dinner & Dance
- ♦ April 21, 2018 Annual School Auction
- ♦ April 28, 2018 Open House
- ♦ May 1, 2018 May Day Celebration
- ♦ June 1, 2018 Last Day of School

Camps

Summer Day Camp

July 23-27

July 30—August 3

Ages 3-12

Instructors: Kitty Keyser & Janet Kerig

Vanessa's Summer Craft Camp

June 18-22 — Ages 5-8

July 9-13 — Ages 9-12

Instructor: Vanessa Dunn

Mountain Adventures Camp

June 25-29 — Ages 5-9

July 16-20 — Ages 10-13

July 22-27 backpacking — Ages 14-17

Instructor: Aron Weisgerber

In Memoriam



Marguerite Dunn April 30, 1956 to October 21, 2016

Marguerite Dunn departed this glorious life on October 21, 2016. She was affectionately known as Margaret, Mama D, Margo and Ga Ga.

Margaret was born April 30, 1956 in Memphis, Tennessee to the late Willie Bell Dunn and Willie A. Dunn.

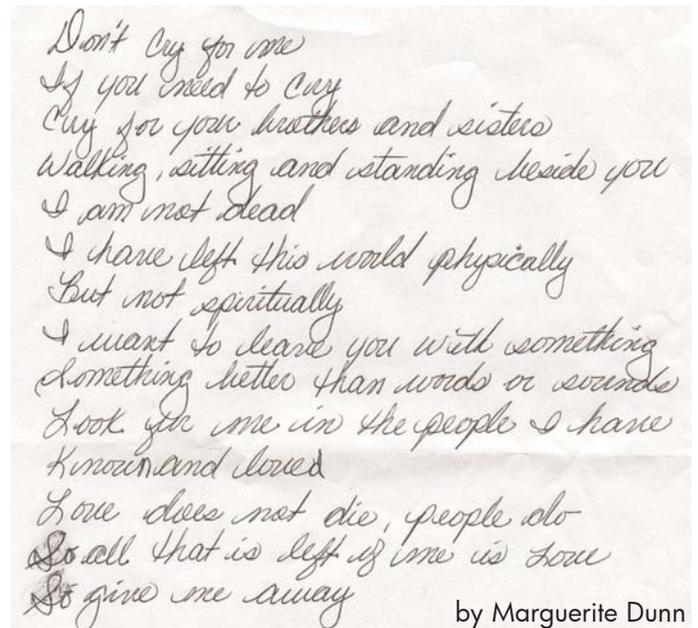
She was the sixth of eleven siblings. She graduated from Rappahannock County High School in 1975. She attended Lord Fairfax Community College and Sunbridge College.

She was a faithful, loving, proud mother to her three girls, Hope, Ashley and Vanessa. Margaret was also a devoted, loving, proud NaNa to her granddaughter Marley who she considered her heart.

Margaret was a dedicated, talented, hard worker. She taught at Hearthstone school for 16 years. She taught various classes throughout the years that included cooking, life skills, sewing and anatomy. She was a gifted seamstress for most of her life. Margaret started cooking at the age of 5 in the kitchen with her mother. Her love for cooking grew over the years and turned into a passion. She was a cook/chef for many

restaurants in Rappahannock County throughout the years.

Margaret will always be remembered for her contagious laugh, bright smile, warm hugs, huge heart and positive spirit. She was a loving Mama, NaNa, Sister, Auntie, friend and teacher.



The day my dear friend Marguerite died, I went for an afternoon hike, uphill into the setting sun on a familiar trail in Shenandoah National Park. The radiant, golden light through the dappled leaves held my friend's voice, which floated down the steep trail, clear and bright, as it had been in life. "Take care of my girls for me. And take care of Hearthstone." This was the birth of the Marley Dunn College Fund.

To contribute to the college fund of Margaret Dunn's granddaughter, please contact Hearthstone School.

April Strickler

Rainbow Market

a non profit store —
benefitting *Hearthstone School Programs*

ORGANIC

Mon. 10-4 Wed.-Sat. 10-4
Tue. Closed Sun 10-2
11576 Lee Hwy., Sperryville, VA
(at the Hearthstone School Building)
2 miles west of Sperryville

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