

The Mount Washington School

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

*"Come forth into the light of things, let nature
be your teacher."* William Wordsworth

June 30, 2006

Dear Neighbor,

It's good to live in Mt. Washington. And with your help, it's about to get even better.

A group of Mt. Washington School parents—with input from neighborhood residents—has envisioned a design for an outdoor classroom, amphitheater and play space across from the elementary school and it is in the works. This unique and useful space will enrich learning and bring the community together. Not only will this new space add to the already stellar programs offered at Mt. Washington Elementary—the crown jewel of Baltimore City Public Schools—but also it will offer the neighborhood a special place to gather.

The plan is simple; remove the existing wooden play structure and landscape the hillside with spaces that allow for learning and gathering. An amphitheater will be tucked along the steep, existing slope. Welcoming artwork—murals, metal sculpture and mosaics—will beckon the young and young-at-heart to enter. A large paved area will be maintained for games of kickball, hopscotch and four-square.

Nothing worthwhile is ever easy, and this endeavor is no exception. A project like this comes with a hefty price tag that grants and business donations can't completely cover. We know that raising a substantial amount of money at the outset will encourage others to participate. And as a leader in our neighborhood, we need you to set the pace. We're asking you to support our dream at the foundational level—with a 100% tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 or more. Your positive response by July 31 will reserve your place on the Neighborhood Supporters list appearing on all subsequent materials, as well as the donors list posted on the fence near the entrance to the Outdoor Classroom. Won't you help us meet the challenge?

You won't be alone. A number of people have already pledged at this level—reminding us that Mt. Washington truly is a special place to live. We want to recognize you in return for your pioneering spirit and generosity. We'll be including our foundational supporters on letterhead and brochures that will go to everyone in the neighborhood, as well as parents at the school.

A member of our Outdoor Classroom committee will contact you shortly to answer your questions and talk with you about your donation. But if you're ready to make the commitment right now, just complete the enclosed card and make your check payable to the Mt. Washington School PTO. Then mail your donation in the enclosed envelope.

We're sure that you feel strongly about Mt. Washington and our elementary school, and we appreciate your support. We look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas V. Shepley
Principal
The Mount Washington School

Rebecca Redett
Chair
Outdoor Classroom Committee

P.S. Don't forget—you'll be receiving a call about your donation soon.