

## The Mount Washington School

# OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

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

September 2006

Dear Neighbor,

Imagine an outdoor space where children learn with their hands elbow-deep in the dirt, skip along a hopscotch grid and lean forward on their seats to hear the end of a fairytale. Imagine an outdoor space where neighbors can gather for an outdoor meeting or live acoustic music or an intergenerational game of kickball.

In a small community like Mt. Washington, this dream is not so far-fetched.

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

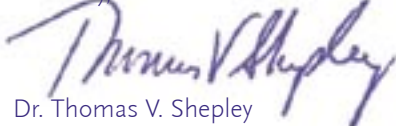
The plan is simple; remove the existing wooden play structure and landscape the hillside with spaces that allow for learning and gathering. An amphitheater will be tucked along the steep, existing slope. Welcoming artwork—murals, metal sculpture and mosaics—will beckon the young and young-at-heart to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

As a member of our extraordinary community, we need your help. The grants already obtained for this venture will not cover the entire cost of construction, landscaping and renovation. Our \$250,000 fundraising goal is a bold one. And it's exactly what we need to make this dream come true.

We hope that you will join us in this effort. Your tax-deductible gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or \$100 will help us make this innovative idea a reality. Simply complete the form on the reply envelope included in this letter and make your check payable to the Mt. Washington Elementary PTO. Then mail the envelope to the school. For your convenience, a PayPal function is available on the school's web site, [mtwashingtonelementary.com](http://mtwashingtonelementary.com). Gifts of stock and securities are also welcome. Please contact Monika Springer Schnell for transfer instructions ([monikaspringer@schnell.us](mailto:monikaspringer@schnell.us); 410.585.1363).

Thank you for supporting the close-knit culture that is Mt. Washington.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas V. Shepley  
Principal  
The Mount Washington School



Becky Redett  
Chair  
Outdoor Classroom Committee

P.S. This summer we've raised \$45,000! Join your neighbors and friends—send your gift today.