



March 19, 2010

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Parents:

It is difficult to believe we have nine weeks left in the school year – and one of those weeks is Spring Break! Signs that this time of year is upon us are everywhere, from the blooms on the trees that grace our campus to the telltale signs of cognitive growth in our classrooms to signature annual events that bring our community together.

Our spring auction, “Hard Hats and Heels,” will long be remembered for the outpouring of generosity it inspired. The gifts of time and talent from our volunteers, coupled with the donations of auction items and the bids upon them, made for a successful and exciting evening. On behalf of our school, I offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a role and joined us last Saturday.

Auctions and such fundraising efforts are indicators of the health, engagement and strength of a school and ours affirms that Heathwood Hall is on solid ground. Early results indicate we are at or above last year’s auction totals – an amazing accomplishment, particularly in this challenging economy. This includes our silent and live auctions, our gala attendance and our Fund-a-Need effort. **For this, I tip my hard hat *and* kick up my particularly masculine heels!**

A bit about this year’s Fund-a-Need. On Saturday evening, members of our community pledged more than \$70,000 to honor our faculty and staff with an annual award for teaching excellence. **This amount will be combined with funds raised prior to the auction so that our new endowment will be established at \$100,000.** The James H. Gasque Award for Teaching Excellence will be presented each year at Commencement to selected members of the Heathwood Hall family who have exhibited the highest ideals of the teaching profession. It’s never too late to make a gift to this endowment. Simply contact the Auction Office at auktion@heathwood.org or 231-7731. As I remarked to our auction audience, this is what great schools do: They honor teachers. Later this spring, we will remind you about the Gasque award, as one of the best aspects of this process is that winners are nominated by our entire community, particularly by parents. Please start thinking of faculty that you would like to nominate and honor.

As we head into the last stretch of our school year, I call upon you to do two things:

1) If you have not done so already, please send in your re-enrollment information so that we may accurately plan for next year’s programs and staffing needs to the very

best of our ability. Re-enrollment has been especially strong this spring, but we also want it to be especially precise!

2) Mark your calendar for a special presentation at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 8. **Dr. Wilkie Wilson, author and director of DukeLEARN at Duke University Medical Center, will present, “Maximizing Your Child’s Brain Performance” in the Robinson Center Lecture Hall.** Look for an email introductory letter from Dr. Wilson that shares more about this program, part of a new speaker series made possible by Jim Hudson Automotive Group. Dr. Wilson is a nationally-recognized neuropharmacologist and speaker in whom I have great respect, having seen him capture the minds of students and parents alike with his straight-forward discussions on the brain and how it best works.

The *Jim Hudson Automotive Group Speaker Series* is a new venture for Heathwood Hall and one about which I am particularly excited. Because of the Hudson family’s generosity, we will be able to bring speakers of stature on campus for students, parents, and faculty with regularity that our school has not experienced in the past. I am confident that Dr. Wilson will provide a wonderful and powerful kickstart to yet another way that Heathwood Hall provides The Difference.

In this season of growth and renewal, I am grateful that you are a part of this vibrant community.

Respectfully,

Chuck