



TWLS Connections

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Whole Learning School



November 2009

Dear Friends,

When Sarah's mom came to TWLS last year to ask if we would be willing to start an American Sign Language (ASL) program at TWLS, Head of School Ann Rooney knew that ASL would be a great tool for the children at TWLS, who all need more time to process and learn information. Studies show that ASL enhances many of the processing functions of the human brain.



One of the many things that makes TWLS special is the ability to customize our program to meet the needs of students. Sarah has Down's Syndrome and she has significant hearing loss, so she needs a program that can both meet her special education needs and provide an

environment of signing peers with whom she can communicate and establish friendships. At The Whole Learning School, for the first time in her life, she has both.

After just one week at TWLS, Sarah used her words and her signs to say, "Friends. My heart is happy here."

Why we need to raise \$60,000

TWLS is fortunate to have had the incredible support of the John and Marianne Dennis Foundation for the past six years. In fact, the Dennis Foundation provided 40 percent of the school's operating budget last year. While the Dennis's are still significant contributors to TWLS, it is now time for more people to pick up and help carry the TWLS mission forward. To be viable this year, we need to raise \$60,000 in new support by March 31, 2010.

Why you should support TWLS

TWLS is more than just a school...it's a cause. The purpose of The Whole Learning School is to ensure that there is a place for all children to reach their greatest potential, academically, socially and emotionally. We believe all children have the right to a school environment where they can thrive and develop self-esteem and independence. By supporting TWLS, you are giving our special needs children a gift usually taken for granted...a school equipped to prepare them, both academically and emotionally, for their next steps into the world.

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)



Maximize your gift

Click on the link above between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, November 17 and your gift to TWLS will be matched. The exact match amount will be determined based on the number of contributions recieved, but every gift will be matched. To participate, click the link above, enter "The Whole Learning School" where it says "Find a Nonprofit," and follow the prompts to make your donation. If you prefer to give at another time, watch your mailbox for our annual appeal, which will arrive soon.