

Journey Community: Please support "Light Our Journey" by forwarding this message to your friends, family and other contacts. Thank you for your help!



Dear Family and Friends,

Imagine a public school where children enter campus with a smile. The student-teacher ratio in Kindergarten is 12 to 1. Standardized test scores consistently improve even though testing is de-emphasized. All students receive the opportunity to learn math, science, Spanish, music, handwork and much more in an age-appropriate and fun way. An essential part of the curriculum is field trips for hands-on learning; such as camping at Catalina Island, being a farmer at Tanaka Farms, making adobe at the Mission of San Juan Capistrano or seeing a play at the Segerstrom Center. **Yes, I'm talking about Journey School! Our public Waldorf-inspired Charter School.**

At Journey, our teachers are trained to deliver state-standards content in a way that builds character, will and resilience; and they do so in such imaginative ways that the *joy of learning* stays alive in each student. You can feel this joy on our campus as students make real things like wooden benches, vegetable soup and knitted scarves. Students present reports, compose poetry, create businesses with math skills and use science to harvest rainwater. They also speak Spanish, master musical instruments, paint beautifully, walk on stilts, ride unicycles and much more.

We are so grateful our children have the chance to receive an education that nurtures their hearts, heads and hands; especially in view of the 300 children on Journey's waiting list. We do not have to pay tuition. However, we do contribute our resources, talents and time. Last year, parents donated nearly \$200,000, volunteered over 10,000 hours and supplied countless materials. We are creating an amazing learning environment for our children to thrive.

We are doing awesome.

- We received the prestigious 2013 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Award for integrating eco-literacy into all the grades and throughout our school.
- OC Tech Alliance and Project Tomorrow nominated us as one of three Orange County Schools to receive a 2014 Innovation Award for Science, Math & Technology.

- Students benefit from our groundbreaking Cyber Civics and Compassionate Campus programs.
- We host beautiful festivals like Harvest Faire, Medieval Games and May Faire.

Academic excellence AND joy are possible in *public* education!

Journey has a healthy growth potential, but we face some challenges:

- We pay RENT for our facilities; an expense non-charter public schools don't bear.
- We pay fees for specialty teachers, extra classes and teacher training.
- We are about to outgrow our current campus.

As parents, we are doing everything we can to keep this education going for our kids. But, more than ever, we need outside donations from like-minded friends like you to bridge us into the future.

It's also important that we maintain a dedicated team in our Development Office to pursue the goals of:

- Obtaining a much-needed permanent campus location by 2020.
- Securing grant awards from foundations to expand our educational opportunities.

Journey School is a modern day "village" making a big difference in the lives of children and their families. As our school and students succeed, we are changing the face of **public** education. Educators and administrators from all over the country have visited or expressed interest in taking our best practices to their public schools. And this is just the beginning....

We invite you to join us on this journey. **Would you please consider donating to Journey School to help us reach our goals?** We ask you to share monetary donations of any size, your expertise, or your time.



Monetary donations will be matched 1% AND with no PayPal fees. So, this is essentially like getting a **3.25% match on all donations NOW through Dec.31.**

Wishing you a joyous holiday season from all of the Journey School students.

P.S. For more information and online donations, please visit www.journeyschool.net/light