

# MISSION STATEMENT

## Paths of Learning Options for Families and Communities

The purpose of *Paths of Learning* is to encourage an understanding of education as a means of nourishing holistic personal development and a sustainable, democratic, and peaceful community life. *Paths of Learning* aims to inspire parents, educators, and others interested in educational policy and practice to consider diverse ways in which children and adults can gain meaningful, integrated knowledge and develop their own most authentic potentials. The magazine will promote educational approaches that embody the following qualities:

- respect for the integrity, wholeness, and autonomy of every person and for the needs of emotional and spiritual development
- understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of participatory democracy
- an atmosphere that fosters reflection, compassion, and self-understanding
- concern for the moral, social, and ecological challenges facing our culture as we enter the twenty-first century.

*Paths of Learning* will introduce readers to ideas, practices, programs, readings, and resources representing numerous educational approaches, both within and outside of existing educational models. Articles will discuss issues of educational theory and practice in a thoughtful, critical, yet accessible manner. The focus will be twofold—providing a rigorous critique of educational practices and institutions that diminish the possibilities of human development, and offering a wide range of alternatives that promise to contribute toward personal fulfillment within a fair, democratic, ecologically sustainable culture. Such alternatives may be found in many environments, from public and independent schools to wilderness experiences to private tutoring and home education, serving any stage of human development from early childhood through adulthood.

The magazine will accept various types of writings—essays, interviews, book reviews, journalistic accounts, historical studies, and accessible presentations of research or theory relevant to the editorial focus. Authors are encouraged to write passionately and from personal experience, while maintaining respect for persons who hold other perspectives. Writing should be clear, to the point, and supported by evidence or intelligent argument.