

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WRIGHT BUILDERS KICKS OFF 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
WITH COMPLETION OF HARTSBROOK SCHOOL CLASSROOMS**



**NORTHAMPTON, MASS.** – In its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, [Wright Builders, Inc.](#) of Northampton, Mass., is pleased to join [The Hartsbrook School](#) in celebrating the newly completed Early Childhood Building at the Waldorf School's Hadley campus. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for late spring.

The new building was designed to meet the academic, recreational and environmental needs of the school community; approximately 247 students ranging from early childhood to high school and staff. Participants called for an environmentally sensitive building that would help maintain the good health of its inhabitants and the planet. The resulting design, by [Kraus-Fitch Architects](#), is a building that incorporates green design and

technologies for a maximum heat gain through orientation; natural ventilation in summer and heat recovery ventilation in winter; an air-tight building shell; diffuse natural light and dimmable, energy-efficient artificial lighting; natural, local materials for porches and class room floors; recycled content insulation; no VOC paints and Vermont Natural Coatings whey-based finishes.

Benefits of the energy-efficient construction and design components include a comfortable, low-maintenance and aesthetically pleasing learning environment. With input from the Hartsbrook early-childhood teachers, the building features a large front porch which welcomes and shelters children and their parents. The entry is a child-scaled entry with a bench in a cozy niche, creating comfort and a sense of place. A bright corridor looks out onto the older children's play yard, giving the younger ones a visual connection to their elders. The classrooms themselves are shielded from distracting views and open directly onto the early-childhood play yard, which allows for free and secure movement, and reinforces the children's connection to the natural world.

On January 24, 2014, the Hartsbrook School took a first step in bringing renewable energy to the Hartsbrook campus by activating a 9.8-kW solar array. This array, installed on the newly built green classroom building, will provide enough energy to power the new building, with some excess power for the other campus buildings.

“It's rewarding for our entire school community to see our students learning in – and

from – these beautiful, green classrooms, especially knowing that we are now generating renewable power for the whole campus,” says Tupper Brown, alumni parent and Chairman of the Board.

The new solar and sustainably-built classroom project is also fitting given that – in addition to offering Waldorf education – The Hartsbrook School curriculum incorporates a well-established [Land Stewardship Program](#). This hands-on program provides students with the tools with which to become sensitive, informed young citizens who are cognizant of the complex issues today and enables them to become caring stewards of the earth.

Adds Jonathan Wright, Founder and co-owner of Wright Builders, “It’s always gratifying to see another academic organization embrace the value that a comfortable, environmentally-efficient building can bring to the learning environment. It’s a great lesson for students of all ages.”

- 30 -

Details and updates to follow at [www.Wright-Builders.com](http://www.Wright-Builders.com)