



Hilltop Herald



November, 2016



STAY INFORMED AND KEEP IN TOUCH!!

We now have a new web address!

- Subscribe to our blog at:
www.hilltopchristianELC.com
- Join our Facebook Page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/HilltopELC>
- You can email us at:
st.pauls.hilltop@att.net

SAVE THE DATE

November 7, 8School Portraits
 November 11.....School Closed, Veteran's Day
 November 21, 22.....Harvest Party
 November 23, 24, 25School Closed—
 Happy Thanksgiving!
 December 21, 22.....Holiday Parties

FLU SHOT REMINDER

A letter went out earlier in the fall with information on the regulation requiring preschool children to have the flu shot. If you have not yet taken your child for his/her flu shot, now is the time. If your child does not have his/her flu shot by December 31st he/she will not be allowed to attend school until they either get the flu shot or until the flu season ends in March.

PARENT-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

Formal Parent Teacher Conferences are held in the spring. However, in the fall, we conduct Parent Teacher Conversations. Now that the Ages and Stages questionnaires have been completed, we will give you the opportunity to discuss the screening results with your child's teacher as well as the other questionnaire that went home in earlier in the fall. You can also discuss how your child is adjusting to school and the goals you have for your child while at Hilltop. Also this is a time to discuss with your child's teacher any developmental concerns you or the teacher might have regarding your child. Ask your teacher about her sign-up sheet.

HARVEST PARTY

In our classes this month we will be exploring food and the harvest. We will investigate a little about the history of our country and the American tradition of Thanksgiving. Just before we leave for our Thanksgiving break, the children will gather for some celebrations. MWF fours and the three year olds will celebrate together on Monday, November 21st. The School Readiness Class and the T/Th four year olds will celebrate together on Tuesday, November 22nd. During these celebrations, the children will come together for a large circle time, which will include songs, fingerplays and a story, followed by a FEAST! The Two Year Old class will have their own celebration.

Sign up sheets will be available if you want to donate anything to our feast. We are looking for food, paper goods and parent helpers. Parent Helpers should be available by 9:30 to set up the tables & chairs, set out plates & cups, heat up any food and serve the food to the children and teachers.

If you have signed up to bring any food for our celebration, please bring it in at drop off time so we have it ready for the party.

We would also love to hear how your family celebrates the harvest! Many cultures have different traditions that celebrate the season of harvest. Does your family's culture celebrate the harvest in a special way? Please share it with your child's teacher, or come in as a guest to your child's classroom and share it with the children. We would love to have you bring a sampling for your child's class of harvest celebration foods from your background and culture!

LABEL CLOTHING

As we are entering the cooler weather days, **PLEASE LABEL** your child's clothing! Label everything including: Jackets, hats, mittens, boots, and backpacks. Children are not always aware of what their clothing looks like, and often there might be two children with identical items of clothing! It is very easy with 18 children in a class to get confused!

HILLTOP HELPING HANDS

Hilltop Helping Hands is a group of parents and other volunteers who have Hilltop's best interests in mind. They are ready to help Hilltop in a variety of ways to support the Hilltop staff and programming. Hilltop Helping Hands has not started meeting this year and are looking to get started. A meeting will be scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. From there, we will determine future meeting dates and activities.

Come and see how you might get involved!

- Would you like to help plan some special events for the Hilltop family? (family fun nights, Annual Art Show)
- Would you like to schedule some parent education classes?
- Would you be willing to do some "housework" for the teachers?
- Would you like to help get the word out to our community about some of Hilltop's happenings?
- Would you like to be a part of our annual Art Show that raises money for our Tuition Assistance Fund?
- Do you have any other ideas that you might like to see Hilltop Helping Hands do?

If you answered **yes**...or even **maybe** to any of these questions, then please come on Monday, November 21st and share your ideas! If you can't make it to that meeting, please speak with Mrs. Sosnicki. Also, find the closed group on Facebook "Hilltop Helping Hands" and ask to be invited!

You may also contact Sue Lemke at shomrok@sbcglobal if you have any thoughts, questions or ideas for HHH.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Cold weather is fast approaching! Please remember that we will go outside as weather permits. If the weather is 32 degrees or warmer (including wind chill) we will go out. Be sure to send your child in a **WARM** jacket, and don't forget to pack the mittens and hat! You may even have to consider boots and snow pants before the end of the month! Please be sure to **label** all items of clothing with your child's name!

If girls come to school in a dress, be sure they wear warm leggings and warm shoes!

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Hilltop follows the Torrington Schools when bad weather comes to Connecticut. If Torrington Schools has a **delay**, Hilltop opens at 10:30 a.m. and dismisses at noon.

To accommodate the bus schedules, the **School Readiness Class** will follow the same delay schedule as Torrington Public schools, usually a **2 hour** delay.

When Torrington Schools are closed, we will be closed also. Please listen to WZBG radio (97.3 FM) or tune in to TV stations WFSB and WVIT. Cancellations and delays will be announced on Remind and posted on our website. If you are a subscriber, you will receive notification of the new post on our "blog".



RESERVE THE DATE!

Each year before we break for the winter recess, we invite families to join us at school for a celebration! This year our parties are scheduled for **December 21st and 22nd**. Please save the date! If you have to take off time from work, please do so **today** so you are ready to join us!

Every child will need an adult buddy from their family that day. If you can't make it, be sure to send another family member or friend.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Thank you for your support with the Scholastic Book Clubs! October orders will arrive this week and the November book orders will be available soon. Remember your Christmas shopping with the November order! You can go online anytime and order, even if the deadline has passed.

Remember, you can shop online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Once you are registered, the class activation code is GMP7N. Thank you so much to our very dedicated volunteer, Heather Bushey for coordinating these monthly opportunities!

REGISTRATION 2017-2018

It feels like school just started, but it is already time to think about next fall registration! Registration opens to St. Paul's church members and Hilltop families on December 1, 2016 for the 2017-2018 school year. A letter and a packet will be distributed soon so you can sign your child up before the first of the year. Class options for the 2017-2018 school year include:

- 2 Year old class Tues/Thurs. 9:30-11:00
- 3 Year olds M/W or M/W 9:00-11:30
- 4 Year olds M/W, T/Th or M-F 9:00-11:30
- School Readiness for income eligible 4 year olds M-F 9:00-3:00

The PreK-K class for Kindergarten eligible children could be reinstated if we see a need. Please speak with Mrs. Sosnicki if this is an option you would like to consider.

SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Ted Morton will be here NEXT WEEK, November 7th and 8th to take portraits of the children both as a class and individually.

Portrait packets will be before our Christmas break! You will have an opportunity to view the photos and either purchase them or return them to Mrs. Sosnicki. All payments and returned portraits will be returned to the studio in one package.

The school receives 20% from the total sales. The money will be put toward our Enrichment Fund which helps us with play yard upkeep and other enrichment activities.

FOOD DRIVE

Each year at this time, Hilltop joins St. Paul's ongoing food drive for the local food bank. All area food banks are finding it hard to keep their doors open. We invite all Hilltop families to participate with us by bringing in non-perishable food items, and placing them in the basket in the entry way. The children and their teachers will carry them to the area of the building where the food will be boxed for the local food banks and soup kitchen.



ONGOING REGISTRATION

Hilltop continues to accept registrations through the year. We still have spaces in the T/Th 2 year old class, as well as in the 4 year old classes. If know someone with a preschooler who is not enrolled in a program, please refer them to us! Every child is entitled to a preschool experience to lay the groundwork for their school age years!