



# Hilltop Herald



January/February, 2017



## STAY INFORMED AND KEEP IN TOUCH!!

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

## TUITION REMINDER

Are you up to date on your child's tuition? By January 1<sup>st</sup>, tuitions should be paid for March. You should have already paid 7 payments! Please check your records and make sure you are up to date! If you are not sure, call the church office at (860)482-3555. Thank you!

January 16.....	No School—Martin Luther King Day
January 17.....	No Hilltop Classes—School Readiness ONLY
January 23.....	Open House
January 30.....	Registration Opens to the General Public
February 9.....	Hilltop Helping Hands meeting @ Panera
February 14, 15 .....	Friendship (Valentine's) Celebrations
February 20,21 .....	No School—President's Day

## SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Thank you for ordering from our monthly Scholastic Book Clubs! The January orders are due on January 27<sup>th</sup>. There are lots of cute Valentine's books available for a special gift for your child! Remember, you can shop online at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). Once you are registered, the class activation code is GMP7N. Thank you so much to Heather Bushey who prepares the flyers, orders the books and distributes the orders once they arrive!

## OUTDOOR PLAY



Cold weather has arrived! 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 winter jacket, hats, mittens, snow pants and boots. Please be sure to label all items of clothing with your child's name!

## OPEN HOUSE

We will be conducting a public Open House on Monday, January 23, 2017 for families who are interested in registering their children for the fall of 2017. If you know of a family with a 2, 3, 4 or 5 year old, this is their chance to stop in to meet the staff, and see the facilities before registration opens to the public on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The hours for Open House are 9:30-11:00 a.m.



## PAJAMA DAY

Each year, we set aside a day some fun at school in our pajamas! It breaks up the monotony of staying inside all winter! The date for Pajama Day, has not yet been set so be sure be on the lookout for more information from your child's classroom teachers in the coming weeks.

## REGISTRATION

Hilltop Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is in full swing! Church members and current Hilltop families have until January 23<sup>rd</sup> to secure a spot for their child. Please be sure to register your child before registration opens to the public. Visitors to the Open House will have an opportunity for early enrollment. **Spaces are filled on a first come, first served basis.**

**The church office handles all registrations.** Registrations are held during regular church office hours, Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Registrations are NOT AFFECTED BY THE SCHOOL'S DELAYS OR CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER. If it is affected by weather, it will be announced through WFSB and WVIT as "St. Paul's" not "Hilltop Christian Early Learning Center".

A confirmation letter will come to you in the spring when the form has been processed.

If you know of someone who wishes to hear more about Hilltop, please have them call the school. We appreciate you passing information about the school to others. It has been proven that word of mouth is our best advertising!

## WHAT ARE HILLTOP CLASS CHOICES FOR FALL 2017?

Hilltop has many options to choose from and it can be confusing to know what your choices are, so here is an easy run down to help you make the right choice for your family.

- Two year olds—Meet Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-11:00. This is an opportunity for socialization for your toddler before they start preschool!
- Three year olds—**Option 1:** Attend Monday & Wednesday 9:00-11:30
- Three year olds—**Option 2:** Add a third day to your child's week by coming on Friday too! Same class, same teachers, an extra day!
- Four year olds—**Option 1:** the MWF class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00-11:30.
- Four year olds—**Option 2:** The T/Th class meets Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00-11:30.
- Four year olds—**Option 3:** Combine both of the morning four year old classes and come 5 mornings a week! Monday-Friday 9:00-11:30
- Older 4 year olds (must be 4 by June 1, 2018)—PreK-K class. If we have enough enrollments, we will reinstate this class for the 2017-2018 school year. This includes early Kindergarten curriculum with more academic skills than the other 4 year old classes. We plan to run this class Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00.
- Kindergarten eligible 4 and 5 year olds(children who will be 5 by December 31, 2017)—The PreK-Kindergarten class will meet Monday through Friday 9:00-3:00. This includes a full Kindergarten curriculum, with learning opportunities that adjust to each child's needs. Children will be ready for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade at the end of the school year.
- School Readiness—is funded by state and federal grant money to provide free or low cost preschool to young children. This class is open to 4 year olds whose families qualify based on income. This is available only for Torrington residents.

## DONATIONS

We want to thank those of you who have recently cleared out your child's toys and books and donated to Hilltop! We have already put them to good use!

## 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 also be posted on our website. If you are a subscriber, you will receive notification of the new post on our "blog".



PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED  
ABOUT AS IF IT WERE  
A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING.  
BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY  
IS SERIOUS LEARNING. PLAY IS REALLY  
THE WORK  
OF CHILDHOOD.  
-FRED ROGERS

## OPEN ENDED PLAY

Did you know the best kinds of activities for your child are open-ended activities that allow them to use their brain power to create things and solve problems? Limiting screen time to less than 2 hours per day is optimal to your child's health and wellbeing. Screen time includes the total amount of time they spend on the tablet, phone, computer and television. Instead of sitting them in front of a screen for long periods, offer your child activities that require him to create scenarios, build the way they want (not a prescribed way) and use their creativity through art, music and dance! A child's play is actually their work!

At Hilltop, we utilize the State of Connecticut Early Learning Developmental Standards (ELDS) for lesson planning. A poster hangs in the playroom in the hallway and in the classrooms, describing each of the areas. We provide open ended activities in the classroom that support the standards and teachers ask open ended questions while the children work and play to encourage children to reflect on what they are doing or what is happening while they play.

While you encourage your child to explore in open ended activities, ask open ended questions. Those are questions that begin with "What, Why, and How?" If your questions only give your child the chance for one right or wrong answer, or a yes or no answer, it is not open ended. However, providing the opportunity to find more than one answer gives them problem solving skills they need to help them make informed decisions later in life. Provide choices to help them make their own decisions. Pretend play and having fun is the key to cognition for young children.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Many public and private schools are beginning the process of registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If your child will be 5 years old by January 1, 2017, please be sure to contact the school where you plan on sending your child to confirm registration information.

Torrington has scheduled their annual Kindergarten Readiness Fair for March 25<sup>th</sup>, so please make note of that and attend the fair with your child! This is open only to Torrington residents. Registration for Kindergarten in Torrington will be March 27-31 and April 3-7. We expect the school system to send more information about the fair and registration in the next few weeks.

## SICK POLICY REMINDER

Control of communicable diseases is the responsibility of both parents and teaching staff. A full listing of guidelines for illness is in your Parent Handbook. We wish to remind you that a child should not return to school until the exclusion period ends as listed in the handbook. A few we want to pay special attention to include:

- ❖ Fever—remain at home 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without fever reducing medicine.
- ❖ Flu—remain at home 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without fever reducing medicine.
- ❖ Strep Throat—48 hours after treatment has been started
- ❖ Stomach bug—24 hours free of symptoms.
- ❖ Colds—Children with acute respiratory symptoms should not be sent to school.

If the teachers feel your child is not well enough to be at school as they enter the classroom, we may ask you to take them home. If a child becomes ill while at school, you will receive a call to pick your child up.

For this reason, please make sure all of your contact information is correct in your child's records.

## VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATIONS

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in school in February! We'll be singing Valentine songs, and making Valentines.

### VALENTINE'S PARTY:

Parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Your child's teacher will let you know exactly which day your child's class will celebrate.

Card Exchange: Children will be exchanging cards on this day. There is no need to address cards to individual children. You only need to be sure your child's name is on the card so we know where the card came from.

Four year olds should try and write their own name on the back of their cards. This could take a few days, so plan accordingly! Some three year olds may be able to write their own names on the back of the cards, but please don't push them to do so. Instead, allow them to scribble on the cards (to represent their names) and then be sure to transcribe their name. The numbers of children in each class is below:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday threes—18

Tuesday/Thursday twos—6

Monday/Wednesday/Friday fours--- 15

Tuesday/Thursday fours—9

School Readiness--- 18

Party Food: Signup sheets will be available to provide a special snack for that day. Please consider how you can help!

## READY4K

Through the grant program that funds our School Readiness class, we have heard about Ready4K which began as a result of research completed at Stanford University. It is a free service for schools and families to use. Once signed up, Ready4K sends parents and guardians 3 texts each week for 8 months. Each text will be full of fun facts and easy tips on how to use everyday activities to boost their child's learning. We will be enrolling in this service and hope you will find great benefits from it! FMI

<https://ready4k.parentpowered.com/index.htm>