



# Hilltop Herald

May/June 2017

## IMPORTANT DATES

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- May 17, 18, 19 .....Summer Birthday Celebrations
- May 29.....School closed—Memorial Day
- June 7.....Last Day, 3 year olds
- June 8.....Last Day, 2 year olds
- June 9.....Last Day 4 year olds
- June 16.....Last Day School Readiness

## REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is under way! If you haven't yet registered your child, now is the time! We want to be sure you have the space you want for your child. In addition, the current teachers need to know they have a job to return to. Thank you for your continued faith in Hilltop as you entrust your children to our care. Please continue to refer your friends and family our way.

Remember, we have one class for income eligible families. The School Readiness class meets M-F 9:00-3:00. Depending on family income, the fee is minimal.

We are also hoping to reinstate our PreK-K class which will now meet M-F 9-3. This class is designed for 4 year olds who are ready for a more academic challenge as well as 5 year olds who are age eligible for Kindergarten.

## SUMMER PROGRAM

Hilltop is running a summer session this this year! We will have some fun filled summer time activities at Hilltop! Hilltop's summer camp will be one class of 18 children ages 3-5 with three teachers. Children who will be coming in the fall can join us as well as the older children who just "graduated".

The session will run July 11-20  
Our topic of study will be "Space Camp!"  
We will explore the solar system, constellations and space travel. The Summer Fun hours are 9:00-11:30 a.m. Flyers will be distributed offering more details. If you want your child to attend, there will be a tear off section on the flyer to register your child. The cost is \$100 for the 8 day session.

## END OF THE YEAR PROGRAMS

As we face the end of the year, we are planning our end of the year programs. You are invited into the classroom to see us as we share some of our favorite songs from the year, followed by refreshments. Notes were sent home already giving the details of our last days of school. Feel free to invite grandparents too! We will be asking families to bring in some refreshments. The schedule is as follows:

- 3 year old class: Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00-1:00
- 2 year old class: Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 9:45-10:15
- 4 year old class: Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:00
- School Readiness: Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30-Noon

## HILLTOP PLAYGROUND RULES

We love to see Hilltop families gathering for extra outdoor play time on our playground, but we ask that you carry through and use Hilltop's playground rules. Here are some guidelines the children have to follow on the playground with their teachers:

- Bottoms on the swings (no tummy swinging or standing on swings)
- Swing only on swings (no hanging from the cross bars to swing).
- Up the ladder, ramp or climbing wall & down the slide (no climbing up the slide)
- Feet first down the slide
- Climb the ladder or rock wall, not the fence
- Walk up or down the ramp, not on the ropes
- No jumping from the upper playscape decks
- Table and chairs stay in place
- Sand stays in the sandbox
- Wood chips stay on the ground
- No weapons (not even pretend)
- Maintain proper adult supervision at all times
- Be sure to shut and lock the gate before you leave.

If we all follow the same routines, it will make it easier on all of us.



## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

If your child has a summer birthday, and you would like them to celebrate before the end of the school year, please check with your child's the classroom sign up sheet to see how you can help. Birthday celebrations will take place on

May 17<sup>th</sup> --- 3's & MWF 4's

May 18<sup>h</sup> --- T/Th 4's

May 19<sup>th</sup> ---School Readiness class



## OUTDOOR PLAY!

We are really enjoying our days outside! Be sure to dress your child appropriately. **Please send you child in with safe shoes such as sneakers for playground play. Flip flops, sandals, Crocs and "party shoes" are not safe for playground play.**

Also, please keep your child safe from harmful UV rays. Sunglasses, sun hats and sunscreen are great ways to protect us from the harmful rays of the sun. Hilltop staff does not apply sunscreen at school, so please be sure to apply it before the start of the day.

Please be sure to check your child daily for ticks. If your child is here longer than 2.5 hours in a day, the teachers will check heads, necks, arms & legs for tick.

We love to have families stay for a while and play after school. We would rather see you on the playscape than playing near the parking lot, or on the sidewalks. However, we ask that you please follow our school play yard rules. Please see the rules on this page to your left.

## KEEP THEM LEARNING OVER THE SUMMER

Though we all look forward to fun in the sun over the summer, evidence shows that children often have learning loss during that period of time. Always be ready to keep the foundation of learning your child has established at school by enriching your activities with learning experiences and social opportunities so they can keep growing. Some ways you can help your child over the summer include:

- Read to them every day
- Attend free concerts offered in the community
- Explore nature—take a hike, go to the beach, or stop by a river or stream
- Meet friends at the park or playground
- Cook together
- Take a bike ride
- Visit the library often
- Visit the zoo, aquarium or a museum-You can pick up free passes at your local library!
- Set up a play date with some Hilltop friends!

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

Thank you so much to Heather Bushey for all the hard work with the Scholastic Book Club sales this year! Without her help we would not be able to offer these great books at fantastic prices! This year, we used a lot of our points for books to add and in some cases replace much loved books to our library! We also want to thank those of you who ordered from the book clubs, because each book purchased added points to our account to help us acquire books and supplies!



## PASSPORT TO LEARNING

Last year, the Torrington Public Schools partnered with community non profits and a few businesses to start a summer learning opportunity for school aged Torrington children, called Passport to Learning. This initiative invites children into different locations in the community where they can learn about and experience different areas of our town, including the library, the Warner, Kidsplay, dancing, karate and Torrington history, and more! .

The summer of 2016 was the first year, and was only open to school aged children. This year, children entering Kindergarten will also be invited. The passports will be mailed to Hilltop children who will be moving on to Kindergarten in June. Please be on the look out for them and participate in this fun summer learning event!

## HILLTOP HELPING HANDS FIFTH ANNUAL ART SHOW

Thank you to all who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show! It was a HUGE success! The final total raised for the Tuition Assistance Fund was around \$800.00! This will help families who asked for help **this year** who were unable to meet the regular tuition costs! We are hoping to keep increasing that fund over the next few months so we have funds available to families next year!

## BOX TOPS

Thanks so much to all who have been bringing Box Tops. Mary Magnoli, a teacher at Vogel Wetmore School and a church member has been able to piggy back our labels with the schools, allowing us to earn money for Hilltop's Enrichment Fund. The Enrichment Fund is used for upkeep on the playground, and other enrichment activities. We are working at growing this fund to make improvements on the play yard soon.