



# Hilltop Herald



December, 2017



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## TUITION REMINDER

By December 1<sup>st</sup>, tuitions should be paid for February. Six payments should have been sent to the office by this time of the year. Please check your records and make sure you are up to date! Thank you for your cooperation!

December 1.....	2017-2018 Registration Opens
December 21, 22.....	Christmas and Year End Celebrations
December 25-January 1.....	School Closed Winter Recess
January 2.....	Return to school!

## YEAR END AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Family members are invited to join the children while the morning classes gather together in their classrooms for a celebration before our winter break! The children may invite their parents, siblings and grandparents to this special time together. The children will participate in a typical circle time, singing and dancing to the songs they have been working on this month. After this short group time together, the children and their families will enjoy some treats. We ask that families plan to bring a snack to share to the party.

<u>December 20:</u>	MW Threes	10:15-10:45
<u>December 21:</u>	T/Th Twos	9:30-10:00
	T/Th Fours	10:15-10:45
	F Threes	<i>(celebration is on Wednesday-Class will be in session from 9-10:30 ONLY to allow Ms. Phelan to celebrate with her other class)</i>
<u>December 22:</u>	MWF Fours	10:15-10:45
	SR	10:45-11:15

After the party, the children will go home with their families.

School Readiness class will end at 11:30 December 22nd and will also go home with their families. However, if transportation is an issue for School Readiness families, the bus will be available to take the children home. Please let Mrs. Sosnicki know by 12/18 if your child will need transportation home.

A sign-up sheet will be available for parents to bring in food and drink for our Christmas meal. Does your family have a favorite food or a dish from your culture or traditions that you enjoy during the holidays? Consider bringing it to our school celebration!

We will need a few parent volunteers to help set out the food that day. If you are interested in helping, please speak with your child's teacher.



## HILLTOP HELPING HANDS

Hilltop Helping Hands is off to a great start! We kicked off the year with a Fall Family Fun night on November 3rd. Children and their families attended a Music Together class, painted trees, made scarecrows and had their faces painted. Our next event was a fundraiser at Jake's Wayback Burgers. Jake's donated 15% of total sales for the evening, and *we raised \$165!* Thank you to all who came to support Hilltop! Please mark your calendars for our **Winter Wonderland Family Fun night - January 19, 2018** with a snow date of January 26, 2018. Parents who would like to be involved, please reach out to Katie Patterson and Shawn Tobin at [hilltopelchelpinghands@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopelchelpinghands@gmail.com).

### SIXTH ANNUAL ART SHOW

We will soon have a date set for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show. Hilltop's art show highlights the children's art work through the year. The theme this year is "Life Cycles". Be sure to look for more information in the coming month and plan to come and see some amazing art! We also will be looking for items for our Silent Auction. We would love to have them art related, but will take any ideas you have! All proceeds will benefit the Hilltop Tuition Assistance Fund.

There will be a few preparation events to ensure a smooth Art Show. Look for these dates in the coming weeks as well. We will hold an Art Workshop event on a Friday evening before the event. All art work created from the evening will be displayed in the Art Show. There will be a "all hands on deck" matting evening where we will need a lot of help in matting artwork. Please consider how you might be able to help.



## 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 when there is a **delay**, 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 for all weather related delays and cancelations. . Cancellations and delays will also be posted on our website and through Remind. If you are a subscriber to our website "blog", you will receive notification of the new post.

## LABEL CLOTHING

Now that cold weather has arrived, it is important that you LABEL your child's clothing! This Includes: Jackets, hats, mittens, boots, and backpacks. Children are not always aware of what their clothing looks like. It is very easy with multiple children in a class to get confused!

## 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 WARM jacket, and don't forget to pack the mittens and hat! Boots are also recommended. If snow is on the ground then don't forget the snow pants! 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 or tights!*

## REGISTRATION

Hilltop Registration for the 2018-2019 school year begins in December! Church members and current Hilltop families are able to register starting right away. Please be sure to register your child before January 20<sup>th</sup> when registration will open 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. Pauls" not "Hilltop Christian Early Learning Center".

A confirmation letter will come to you 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!



### OPEN HOUSE

We will be conducting a public Open House on Monday, January 22, 2018 for families who are interested in registering their children for the fall. If you know of interested families, this is their chance to stop in to meet the staff, and see the facilities before registration opens to the public on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The hours for Open House are 9:30-11:00 a.m.



### CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR ENROLLMENT

Hilltop continues to accept registrations for the current year. We still have spaces in all of our classes. If you know someone with a 2, 3 or 4 year old 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!

Also, Monday and Wednesday 3 year olds can add Fridays to their schedule, and Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday and Thursday 4 year olds can consider expanding the amount of days at school to 5 days a week. Making these changes is easy! Just talk with Mrs. Sosnicki to adjust your child's Hilltop hours!



## SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Thank you for ordering from our monthly Scholastic Book Clubs!

Remember, you can shop online at any time by visiting [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://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!

## CURRICULUM

This year we have started using the Creative Curriculum® from Teaching Strategies® to support our curriculum planning. Creative Curriculum® provides researched based curriculum resources for teachers of young children, yet still honors the teacher's creativity in implementing it. It guides the teachers to plan topics of study in depth and gives great guidance how to dig deeper into each study.

We began the year with the "Beginning of the School Year" resources, followed by the study of "Trees". When we return from our December break, the classrooms will begin a new study on "Clothes"! The teachers will guide the children as they study the features of clothes, how to take care of clothes, how clothes are made, how cloth is made, where we get our clothes, what special clothes are needed for work, and other special clothes. Your child's teachers will invite you to participate in a few ways, so be on the lookout for those opportunities!

During the month of December, the part time private pay classes will be focused on the birth of Jesus, his earthly parents and the other people that were around at the time of his birth. Meanwhile, in the School Readiness class, they will be sharing their family traditions and celebrations.



## NAEYC ACCREDITATION

February marks our 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary since we became accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This milestone tells us its time to begin the process of renewing our accreditation! The key to maintaining our accreditation is living it out day in and day out, but the process of documenting what we do is time consuming for the staff! Please wish us well as we begin this process again on top of maintaining all of our responsibilities each day!