



Hilltop Herald



October 2026

UPCOMING DATES

October 4th..... St. Paul's Pumpkin Patch Open
 October 5-16.....Midland Catalog Fundraiser
 October 9... **Early Release M-F & ESCT- Staff Dev**
 October 12...**NO School- Indigenous People Day**
 October 15-30..... Spice Sale Fundraiser
 October 23...Dan Bowen Halloween Magic Show
 October 30.....Spice Sale Orders are due
 October 30.....Storybook Character Day
 November 7..... St. Paul's Craft Fair Table

Halloween Magic Show

Dan Bowen first performed for us at our annual art show back in May. He has a new "Halloween Show" This is a free event for students and families. The show is Friday, October 23 at 2 pm. Families are invited to join your child at 1:45 pm. Students will be dismissed immediately after the show at approximately 2:30 pm. **If you are unable to join us for the show, please be sure someone is here by 2:30 pm for early pick up.**

Arrival/Pick Up

Everyone has been so helpful and cooperative at arrival and pick up time! Thank you so much!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT ON THE BRIGHTWHEEL APP.

If your child is arriving late, please be sure to text us on the brightwheel app and let us know your estimated time of arrival (ETA). If another class is waiting to come in, please wait along the side of the line so we know you are here. Please also text if you are running late to pick up.

OTHER REMINDERS

- Please **contact the school** if your child is absent from school. Call, email, or send a "Brightwheel" Message. As early in the day as possible.
- If there is an emergency and you or the person on your pick-up sheet are unable to pick up your child, please notify your child's teacher *in writing* of who will be picking up your child. If the staff does not know the person, a photo ID will be required.
- Please notify Mrs. Mazzei if there is a change in address, phone number, work number, cell number, or emergency contact person.
- If your child has a contagious disease, please notify the school. We will inform the rest of the class about such illnesses. Names will be held in confidence. Some diseases (including Covid-19) must be reported to the State of CT. Dept of Public Health
- Hilltop is a smoke and vape free facility during school hours. Please refrain from smoking in all areas of the property.
- All school doors are locked during school hours for security.

Reminder



Monarch Caterpillars and Butterflies

It has been a few years since we have been able to study the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Thanks to Conner from our two's classroom, we have four caterpillars. We watched them munching and crunching on milkweed for about a week. After the Labor Day holiday we came in to find two chrysalises already formed.

We will continue to watch and wait to see this beautiful miracle happen.



Pumpkin Picking Field Trip



This year, our Pumpkin picking field trip will take place here at St. Paul's Church. The church is conducting a fundraiser and will have pumpkins for sale to the public beginning on October 4th. Our classrooms will visit the "Pumpkin Patch" during that first week of sales. Each child will get to pick a small "sugar" size pumpkin. The cost will be \$5.00. I will add the cost to your Brightwheel account so you can pay online or in person if you wish.

Families are encouraged to purchase your pumpkins from St. Paul's too. The patch is open 11 am to 7 pm every day in October. Mrs. Mazzei will be volunteering at the patch on October 9 from 3pm to 7 pm. Thanks in advance for your support!

If you would like to help with the offloading of the pumpkins, you are welcome to join on October 3rd at 2:00 pm.

FALL FUNDRAISER CRAFT FAIR

This November 7th Hilltop will participate in the St. Paul's craft fair. Our table will be called "Festival of Bags." It is a grab bag. The tickets will be \$2 each. The person will choose a number (chip) and get the corresponding bag with the same number. We are looking for donations of small items that will fit a regular size lunch bag. Some suggestions for new or gently used items are:

- ❖ Small toys (Matchbox cars, Small sensory pop it, or playdough)
- ❖ Small stuffed animals
- ❖ Individually wrapped candies.
- ❖ "Squishies"
- ❖ Art supplies- crayons/markers
- ❖ Mini Bubbles
- ❖ Playing cards

Our hope is to fill one hundred bags!

QUESTIONNAIRES

There are two questionnaires we are asking you to complete. Please be sure to fill them out so your child's teacher can get to know your child better.

- One helps the teachers understand routines and expectations your child has at home so we can work as a team to support you and your child.
- **Sparkler app** has the **Ages & Stages Developmental** screening that helps the teachers get an idea of where your child is physically and cognitively.
- **Sparkler app** has the **Ages and Stages Social/Emotional** screening tool that helps the teachers see how your child is developing around social skills and emotional regulation.

These questionnaires will be what our fall Parent Teacher conferences are based on, so it is important they are completed and returned to your child's teacher.

Thank you to all who have already completed the questionnaire.



Donations of both time and gifts are always graciously accepted.

This month we are looking for:

Shaving Cream

Assorted sizes and colors Pom Poms

Thank You

STORYBOOK CHARACTER DAY

Friday October 30th will be Storybook Character Day.

Dress your child in a favorite storybook character. We will have a special snack.

NO MASKS OR WEAPONS WITH THE COSTUME!

BATHROOM AND CLOTHING CONSIDERATIONS

As a reminder, Hilltop children in all preschool classes should be fully potty trained. We understand if they are still learning. We are happy to help with this process. We ask that you support your child at home by teaching your child to be independent in the bathroom.

Please be sure there is always a change of clothes at school in a gallon sized Ziploc bag in case there is a spill or a toileting accident. As the season changes, be sure to send in clothing that is appropriate for current weather conditions.

In addition, be sure to label **ALL** of your child's clothing. The change of clothes as well as jackets, hats, mittens, and boots. Sometimes the child is not aware of what coat or jacket was brought in, or their jacket might be like another friend's. Other times two children might have the same shoes or boots, and they might get confused!

We also ask that the clothes you dress your child in be easy for him/her to manage themselves while in the bathroom. Belts and buttons may be too difficult for them. We encourage independence whenever possible. If they are in clothes that they can manage themselves, it makes it a successful experience.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

What a fantastic opportunity to purchase high-quality books at an excellent price! October's book orders are due on October 15th. For every dollar spent by a family, Hilltop receives points toward new books, and supplies. If you prefer, you can order via the paper flyers, but it is so easy to order online.

- go onto www.scholastic.com/bookclubs
- Register on the parent page,
- When prompted, enter the one-time class activation code: **GMP7N**
- Then you can order your books!

This year, you get to choose where you want your books delivered! They can be shipped here at school for distribution or have them shipped directly to your home!

Nutmeg Spice Co. Fundraiser

Beginning October 15th through October 30th we will be having our seventh annual Nutmeg Spice Fundraiser. Families will be given a "QR" code to share with your families and friends. These spices are large bottles and will come in handy for the upcoming baking season. There are savory items as well to use as rubs for meat. We added some ice cream toppings too. There is something for everyone! Funds raised will be used for classroom supplies.

All orders ship to school for distribution

Thank you in advance for your support!



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CURRICULUM

Hilltop's curriculum always centers around a topic of study, and we use that topic to create curriculum that supports developmental expectations. We utilize the Early Learning Developmental Standards from the State of CT Office of Early Childhood to connect activities to the standards. We are also using Creative Curriculum from Teaching Strategies.

We use the state of CT Documentation and Observation for Teaching System DOTS to assess the children's growth over time. This information will be collected throughout the year, and a summary will be presented to you in the spring.

We began our year on the topic of study around the beginning of the school year. Activities centered around getting to know each other as well as school routines and rules. This helped us create our school family and lay the foundation for a fun year!

We are now moving into the study of trees and pumpkins. This will fit perfectly in our outdoor classrooms! It is such an exciting time of year to learn outside!



MIDLAND CATALOG FUNDRAISER

New for this year, we are having a catalog fundraiser. Giving you an opportunity to support us if you are interested.

The catalog will have gifts, sweet treats, and candles for sale.

Thank you in advance for your support 😊



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

In early November, teachers will be scheduling Parent Teacher Conferences. These can be held in person or by phone.

Please watch for your teacher's sign-up sheet and be sure to take the time to meet with your child's teacher. With the drop off and pick up outside, it is not easy to make the same connections, so please take advantage of this opportunity!