

October 12, 2009

Dear Hilltop Families,

I want to begin by thanking all of our parents who make Hilltop such a great school. Parent help in so many ways - from making sure your child is rested and ready for school, checking the blue folders each day and monitoring homework. We also have been fortunate to have many parent volunteers added to our school. I appreciate all of our helpers and want to give special thanks to our PTSA for putting on the Jog-a-Thon last week, paying for our assembly this past Wednesday, and their preparation for the upcoming carnival.

The assembly last week was *Alexander and the Dragon*, put on by Taproot Theater. The play skillfully included key messages for students about how to deal with **bullying**. Ask your child about the 3 Rs (recognize, refuse, and report). Our Character Education committee is working on developing a short but clear document for parents that defines bullying and communicates our policies and procedures. It is so important for us as adults to listen to any reports about bullying. If your child talks to you about a situation that may involve bullying please don't hesitate to let me or your child's teacher know.

Just as many of you are struggling to balance the **budget** we are doing the same here at Hilltop. While the most visible budget cut for you may be the transportation cutbacks we are also faced with significantly reduced building budgets. One of our guiding principles this year is, "When considering an expenditure or use of resources we will weigh the educational value and connection to our core curriculum." We are closely monitoring the use of the copy machine and supplies and have already made some great reductions.

Parent Conferences will be held the week of October 26th. Students in grades 1-6 and Mrs. Dumo's kindergarten will be dismissed at 11:40 all week. Half day kindergarten students do not attend school this week. Conferences are an important time to exchange information and build that critical

relationship between school and home. Please make it a priority to attend your child's scheduled conference.

We will be holding a **lockdown drill** on Tuesday morning. This is a districtwide drill and will give us an opportunity to try out some revisions we've made to our procedures since the lockdowns we experienced in September. Since the beginning of the year we've practiced an earthquake drill and held two fire drills. These drills help us all increase our readiness for an emergency.

Fliers in the Office: AAU WYBL boys basketball for grades 5 & 6 (info at www.infosports.com/wybl/) , FirstMotion conflict resolution.

Upcoming Events:

Week of October 26th Early Release for parent conferences

October 30th - PTSA Carnival 6:00-9:00pm

November 3rd - Picture Retakes

November 6th - No School - Staff work day

November 9th Veteran's Day Assembly 1:00

November 11th - No School Veteran's Day Holiday

Cut and return

Each year we celebrate Veterans Day at Hilltop. This year we will honor them on November 9th at 1:00 PM. We would like to honor veterans who have relatives here at school. If you would like your relative honored please return this form to Hilltop by Friday, October 23rd. If possible please include a copy of a picture measuring 3" x 3" or less. We can NOT return the pictures as they will be glued to our special display flag.

Veteran's Name _____

Branch of Service _____

Dates of
Service _____

Relationship _____

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Presented
by _____