

October 26, 2009

Dear Hilltop Families,

Parent Conference Week! This is a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher in a meaningful conversation that should improve our ability to meet his or her needs. See the accompanying page on preparing for a conference. As a reminder dismissal is at 11:40 each day. Please talk to your child about whether they will be eating lunch at school this week. It can be confusing!

Building Team News The Building Team recommended that I review the final decisions on parking/driving/etc. here at Hilltop. I'm happy to do so and again am very appreciative of your patience and flexibility as we worked to establish a safe and efficient system. Key points:

- The south parking lot is open for parking from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. Before and after school it is reserved for school buses.
- The north lot is our parent pick-up and drop-off area. Drivers should pull up as far as possible to keep the line moving. Please drive slowly and carefully!
- Drivers are not able to turn left into our parking lot from Damson Road. The easiest thing to do is loop around by turning on South Danvers Road.
- We ask that drivers turn right out of the lot during the busy drop-off and pick up times.
- The fire station parking lot must be kept clear.
- All parents and students must cross with the crossing guards at the crosswalk.
- The Designated Walkways are there for students and citizens to walk on – parking there is illegal.
- It's helpful to have your lights on when it's foggy or dusky, and to use your blinkers so the Safety Patrol can see you and anticipate your path.
- Please send a note if your child is to go home in a different manner than normal. Otherwise we will send them home as in previous days.

PTSA Carnival Friday. Students may wear costumes to this event. Costumes are not allowed at school this day. This is a huge Hilltop community event and I'm excited to see everyone there!

School District News Residents recently received a mailer from the school district explaining information about an upcoming Replacement School Programs and Operation Levy Election on Tuesday February 9, 2010. I'm happy to answer any questions you have about the levy or school funding.

Susan

This Week

- Early Dismissal all week at 11:40 for Parent Teacher Conferences
- No School for Rooms 18,19,24.
- PTSA Carnival Friday 6-9 pm

Upcoming Events

- November 3rd Picture Retakes
- November 9th Veteran's Day Assembly 1:00
- November 11th – No School Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 26-27th No School Thanksgiving Holiday

Fliers in the Office

- Northlake Church Carnival

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

When parents and teachers work together, they make an unbeatable team. Parent conferences can help build the team-work that supports a positive learning environment for children. A parent-teacher conference is not just a time to listen to what educators have to tell you about your child; it is your chance to clearly communicate your ideas, concerns, problems, suggestions, praises, and thoughts to the teachers. Having a clear idea of what you want to say before the conference begins is the key to a successful exchange of information.

Questions you may want to ask:

How is my child doing in class?
Does my child participate in classroom activities?
Does my child handle the learning environment?
Does my child use time well? Are good work habits used?
Does my child usually turn in homework?
Are there any assignments missing?
Does my child seem happy in class?
How well does my child get along with others?
Can my child express his/her needs and thoughts?
Does my child show self-control in most situations?
What can I do at home to support what you are doing?

You may want to inform the teacher about:

School activities your child talks about at home, both likes and dislikes.
Your child's responsibilities at home.
If anything important has happened recently that would influence your child's performance or behavior at school.
Classmates your child sees or talks to regularly.
Your child's strengths and weaknesses.

Talk with your child. Ask what your child thinks the teacher will say. What would your child like you to ask the teacher? Talk about likes, dislikes, problems, and successes.

Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand. Special programs for your child are sometimes referred to by their initials.

Be prepared to talk and listen. Tell the teacher what you see at home. Talk about your child's interests. Tactfully talk about any concerns. And be sure to let the teacher know about anything that might affect your child/s learning.

Follow up. Stay in touch with the teacher. If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note or call.