

HILLTOP NEWS

Volume 17 Issue 6 January, 2018

WELCOME BACK!!

Welcome to 2018!!! We are excited to welcome each and every one of you back to school this year. I am sure the children are eager to return to school and share some of their exciting Christmas stories with us. As a staff, we look forward with anticipation to the new year, and the plans the Lord has for us. Thank you, once again, for allowing us to be such an important part of your child's life. May God richly bless you and your family in 2018.

SPECIAL DAYS

We have some fun and special days planned this month. Be sure to check your child's calendar to see what is happening in each classroom. To give the children a chance to share some of their Christmas treasures, we have scheduled show-and-share early in the month. Some classes will have Snowflake Day. Feel free to wear a snowflake outfit or bring your favorite homemade snowflake from home. We'll use this time to look at how God made each snowflake unique just the way He has made each of us. The 4 & 5 year olds will have a Pajama Party Day as well. Feel free to send your child to school in their pajamas. It is a fun day!



THEMES

The themes for the 2's are Winter and Snow. They will be working on beginning to understand that other's have feelings; imitating adult actions; and participating willingly in simple games and activities. Their Bible verse is Psalm 147:16, "God spreads the snow."

The themes for the 3's are Winter and Snow. They will be working on transitioning easily; participating willingly; completing puzzles; recognition of shapes (circle, square, and triangle), and listening intently to stories. Their Bible verse is Psalm 147:16, "God spreads the snow and scatters the frost."

The themes for the 4's are Jesus Grew and So Do We; Winter; and Snow. They will be working on speaking in front of a group of peers; listening while others speak; cutting a straight line; distinguishing between small, smaller, smallest; and identifying same and different. Their verse is Luke 2:52, "And Jesus grew both tall and wise."

The theme for the 5's is Weathering the Weather. They will be working on building strong relationships with others in the class; answering questions appropriately; tracing numbers 1-20; tracing basic shapes; weather terms; experimenting with the three forms of matter; time concepts; Letters R-Z; and being responsible. Their Bible verse is Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

SNOW DAYS

It is that time of the year again, when we have to plan for snow days. Please be sure to listen to your radio and/or TV for news of delays or cancellations on snowy or icy mornings. The following stations should carry our announcements:

TV Channel 8	TV Channel 27
TV Channel 21	TV Channel 15
TV Channel 43	BOB 94.9 FM
WRVV 97.3 FM	KISSFM 99.3
WKBO 1230 AM	WLBR 1270 AM
WJTL 90.3 FM	

Additionally, you can check Hilltop's own website: www.hcnskids.org, or our Facebook page. We will post announcements on both as soon as a decision is made regarding school status.

When a modified schedule is announced, it means that classes will meet from 11:00 to 12:30. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. (not 10:45 a.m.)

CHRISTMAS SHOP THANKS

Thank you to all of you who allowed your child to shop at this year's Christmas Shop. It was a HUGE success with monies being raised that will go towards Hilltop's scholarship fund and other equipment purchases for the school. We are grateful to those who participated and to all those parents who graciously and enthusiastically helped the children to choose their gifts.

Also, many of you donated gifts this year!! That was so nice of you. We would like to personally thank each one of you who took the time to donate time and/or gifts to make our Christmas Shop a success, but we are sure we would forget at least one of you. Please know how grateful we are to you. Without your help, it wouldn't have been possible.

TEACHERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

It's exciting to see how the Lord blends our gifts and talents to make a wonderfully effective team in each classroom. That is what happened in Room 103. We have two teams that are wonderful together. Miss Crystal and Miss Ruth teach the 4's and Miss Crystal and Miss Monica teach the 3's.

This is Miss Crystal's second year teaching with us at Hilltop, but she has been a part of the Hilltop for many years. In fact, Miss Crystal attended Hilltop as a child in our 3's and 4's program.

Miss Crystal is married to Jon (whom she met in the 3's class at Hilltop), and they live in Hummelstown with their two girls, Emilie, a 1st grader, and Katelyn who is in our 5's program.

The Gaffney's attend the Hershey Free Church. In her spare time, Miss Crystal enjoys being a mommy to her two little girls, running, and being outdoors.

This is Miss Ruth's second year with us at Hilltop, but she first came to us as a grandma that would bring her two grandsons to Hilltop. After working at the Milton Hershey School as houseparents, Miss Ruth retired to care for her husband, Lou. Lou passed away in 2015. They made a list of possible jobs and Hilltop was one of the top ideas. Miss Ruth says that working at Hilltop has been a real blessing to her (and to us!).

Miss Ruth has three grown daughters. Erin and her husband, Brandon, live in Denver, Colorado; Megan and her husband, Steve, live in Richmond, Virginia; and Michelle and her sons, Donovan and Ashton, live in Palmyra.

When she is not working, Miss Ruth enjoys church at LCBC-Manheim and spending time with family and friends. Her hobbies are reading, crafts, and cooking.

As often happens, Miss Monica first experienced Hilltop as a parent. Kaitlyn, 19, a sophomore in college, Emma 16, is in 11th grade, and Eli, 12, is in 7th grade. All three are Hilltop alumni. Monica and her husband, Chris, make their home in Hershey.

The Kalmbacher's attend Harrisburg BIC where Monica is involved in outreach. When she is not at Hilltop, Monica and her husband are also houseparents at the Milton Hershey School to a group of elementary-age girls.

In her spare time, she likes to go to Disney World, read, and watch football.

We are not only blessed to have these wonderful women teaching at Hilltop, but blessed by having them teach together. They both make a wonderful team and we appreciate all that they bring to the classroom.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be coming home for all of our classes the last week in January. You should look for your child's progress report in his/her bookbag.

It is important to note that in January we are only reporting on your child's social development. In April, you will receive a report on all areas of development.

Certainly, if you have any questions about the report, or concerns about your child's development, please talk with your child's teacher. We want to have an open line of communication with you about your little one's progress.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect 280 shoeboxes in November for the Operation Christmas Child ministry!!!! Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!! Many times the shoeboxes came in and we didn't know who to thank, but please know that our entire staff was deeply moved by the amount of shoeboxes that were collected. Thank you for making Christmas extra special for a little child!! May you be blessed.



LIBRARY CART

Just a reminder, about Hilltop's library cart program. It is a free program that is open weekly. (Any changes to that schedule will be posted).

Stop by Room 203 and check out a variety of books and resources for both you and your children.

New items are always being added to the library so be sure to stop in and visit frequently. We want to make it as easy as we can for you to get some books into your home while encouraging you to sit and read with your little ones.



SET YOUR MINDS ON HEAVEN!!!

Heaven! This is our theme for the year. And we would love it if you would memorize our Heaven scripture along with us. It is Colossians 3:2. So far, we have 7 people that have said it. Our challenge is to have 200 people (adults and children included) say it by the end of the year. Watch the signs go up at the Hilltop entrance as more and more people say this special verse of Scripture. We would LOVE to add your name to our wall!

KEEP MEMORIZING!!!!

REGISTRATION

Hilltop will open its registration for the 2018-2019 school year to current Hilltop students and any siblings on January 3rd. Beginning January 14th, registration will open to families of the Hershey Free Church.

Open registration spaces are filled on a first-come/first-served basis, so please don't delay in returning your registration form for next year. We want to be sure to have all of you back with us -- we love you so!!!

OPEN HOUSE

Hilltop will open its doors to the community on Wednesday, January 31st, 2018 for its annual Open House. The open house will take place from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be open to the public during these days.

We are always in need of some volunteers that would be willing to give tours of the school on these days. If you have a love for Hilltop, and you would be willing to help us in this way, please let Miss Becky know. We really appreciate your continued support.

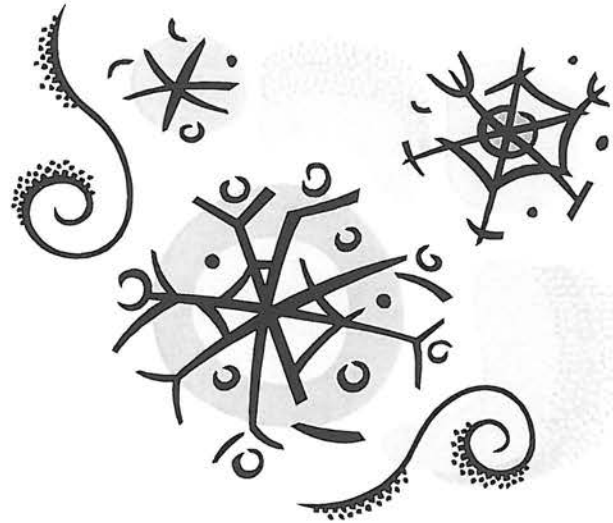
KID'S QUIPS

Your children continue to come up with the cutest things to say!

In Miss Crystal & Miss Ruth's 4's class, they were talking about the Christmas story and how Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken, and that everyone was going to return to their hometown to be taxed. Hadley Bricker said, "Wait! You mean he didn't even say please?"

In Miss Danielle and Miss Judy's 3's class, they were singing the song Feliz Navidad. Miss Danielle has a little stuffed dog, Pedro, that sings along with the song. On the way out the door, Andrew Peters was telling everyone, "Feliz Doggy-Dog." Too cute!

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us. They have a way of blessing us each and every day. Keep the cute quips coming!



NO SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST
FOR THE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE