



The Hilltopper

A Newsletter From The Headmaster's Office

October 2, 2009

Calendar

- 10/5/09 – 1st Grade Pond Study Trip
- 10/6/09 - School Photos
- 10/9/09 – Art Show Opening 7:00 PM
- 10/10/09 – Art Show Gallery Day 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
- 10/11/09 – Art Show Gallery Day 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
- 10/12/09 – Columbus Day – No Classes
- 10/13/09 – Grade 3 to PEEC
- 10/14/09 – US Trip to West Side Story
- 10/16/09 – Conferences

Pok-O-MacCready Trip 2009

On Friday, October 25, the Hilltop Upper School returned from its four day outdoor education experience at the Pok-O-MacCready Outdoor Educational facility in the Adirondacks. All students in the 5th-8th Grades take the five hour drive north to take part in a variety of high adventure outdoor activities that challenge students individually and challenge them as group

participants. Hilltop takes this trip to achieve a number of goals:

- To establish, through a significant and unique event, an Upper School identity
- To engage Upper School students in a significant opportunity for experiential education
- To offer students opportunities to overcome a fear, take a leadership role, or simply be a good team member



8th Grade on top of Cascade Mountain



6th Grade on the ropes course

Upper School Students Choose Electives

Fifth through Eighth Grade students selected an elective course for the first third of the school year. Electives are designed so that a teacher can share an interest with students. The courses change every trimester.

- **Metalworking** – Students explore metal working with three projects using tin, copper and wire. Metalworkers will learn about the different properties of this unique material and the tools it requires. Projects will include a lantern, a picture frame or wall-hanging and a wire piece, like a suncatcher.
- **Basketball** – Using the Student Council outdoor court, students will learn the fundamentals of basketball and team play of the game.
- **Vocal Music** - In this elective, students practice small group, harmony and solo singing. Participants will sing popular, folk, rock and musical theatre styles of music. The goal is to become effective and expressive communicators through singing.
- **Yearbook Photography** - This elective is used to photograph and save photos of students throughout the school to be used in the 2009

yearbook. You need your own digital camera for this elective.

- **Geometric Constructions** - Geometric constructions are done using only a compass and a straightedge. Using these materials participants learn how to construct and bisect line segments, angles, and triangles. These constructions are then used to make circle designs.
- **Woodwind Workshop** – Students work on reading skills, technique on wind instruments, scales, reading new tunes, etc. Fifth Grade students are welcome to join and work on brass or percussion
- **Civilization Simulation** - *Civilization III*, is based around building an empire, from the ground up, beginning at start of recorded history and continuing beyond the current modern day. The player's civilization is centered around a core of cities that provide the resources necessary to grow the player's cities, construct city improvements, wonders, and units, and advance the player's technological development.

HPA Flash...

Jean Kovacs & Christy Cramer

- Our Fall Fundraiser, The Sally Foster Gift Wrap and Cookie Dough Sale, is coming to a close on October 2nd. This sale helps fund our Author Visits throughout the year which our kids love! Please get your orders in.
- Thank you to all the parents stepping up to help with the Halloween Spooktacular on Oct. 30. Call Alina Brewal at 908-362-9333 and Laren Wilson at 973-208-8211 if you'd like to help out. A fun afternoon is being "brewed".
- The next HPA meeting is Tuesday, October 13 in the all

purpose room at 8:30 a.m. Come and find out more about the upcoming Fall activities. You're always needed.

- Shop Rite gift card sales continue. Help support Hilltop each time you grocery shop. We receive 5% back on all card orders. The next order is due Friday, October 23. Forms can be downloaded from the Hilltop web site, and should be turned in to Mrs. Field.
- A special thank you to all of our Homeroom Parents and a reminder to send in your class email list to Christy Cramer or Jean Kovacs as soon as possible.
- In our efforts to coordinate all school communication please remember to send all letters, etc to Jean or Christy for preview. These efforts serve to unify and clarify all parents understanding throughout the school year.

Headmaster Meetings Scheduled

Grade level Headmaster meetings are on the calendar this year. Headmaster meetings are an opportunity to sit with the with the Head of School and talk about issues relevant to a specific grade level in the school. These meetings can and do cover a wide range of topics and they are useful ways to connect with other parents in your child's class. These meetings are not a good place to talk about pressing classroom issues as it is not a timely venue. When you have pressing classroom concerns the first contact should be with the teacher ASAP. Ms. McGee, as Assistant Head of School, or Mr. Stefani are good sources of support and follow-up in these instances as needed.

All meetings take place in the Headmaster's Office (space allowing) and extend from 8:30-9:30 AM. The Trimester One meeting Schedule is the following:

- October 22 - Preschool
- October 23 – Grade 5
- October 28 - Prekindergarten
- October 29 – Grade 6
- November 4 – Kindergarten
- November 5 - Grade 7
- November 6 - Grade 1
- November 11 - Grade 8
- November 12 - Grade 2
- November 13 - Grade 3
- November 18 - Grade 4

I look forward to seeing you there.

Hilltop Country Day School provides a family-oriented, nurturing, creative, highly educational environment in which children:

- Discover the excitement of learning;
- Develop good study habits;
- Grow in self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Develop sensitivity and respect for the rights and abilities of others; and
- Learn to accept responsibility and meet personal challenges.

Hilltopper Contributors
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