



The Hilltopper

A Newsletter From The Headmaster's Office

October 30, 2009

Calendar

- 11/4/09 – PS Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/4/09 – Grade 2 Trip to Museum of Early Trades
- 11/4/09 – Grade 4 Trip to Raptor Trust
- 11/5/09 – NO BUS SERVICE
- 11/5/09 – 7th Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/6/09 – NO BUS SERVICE
- 11/6/09 – 1st Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/6/09 – Dress Down Day
- 11/9/09 – Fall Food Drive Begins
- 11/10/09 – Grade 3 to Trip to Living History Farm
- 11/11/09 – 8th Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/12/09 – 2nd Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/13/09 – 3rd Parent/Headmaster Meeting
- 11/13/09 – K-4 Movie Afternoon

Hilltop's Value-Added

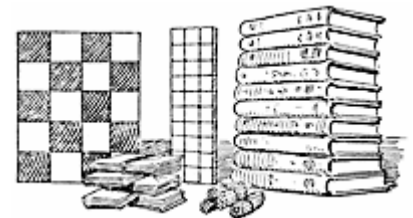
(From the Headmaster's Desk)

Since this summer I have been maintaining a blog (or web log) at <http://isenet.ning.com/> and I use it as a place to work on my own professional development and to think through, or comment on, educational topics in popular media. I drew on some of the discussion at the Lower School Focus Group meeting with the Board of Trustees last week for a blog post on October 26th. We spent some time that evening talking about the "intangibles" in a Hilltop Country Day School education. That discussion dove-tailed nicely with a Thomas Friedman *New York Times* Op-Ed column on October 21 entitled, "[The New Untouchables](#)." Quite simply, Friedman believes that if you take a look at the hiring and firing trends of companies in this economic downturn, you will see a group that has emerged as untouchable when lay-offs take place. Those individuals are the ones who are able to re-imagine their jobs, and their purpose in a company, to better fit the vastly changed landscape. These individuals are being kept on board over those who are waiting for the familiar landscape to return. Friedman believes that this versatility and resiliency can and should be part of every child's education and, indeed he sees its inclusion as essential to surviving the current downturn and avoiding another similar one in the future. This "right education," as he calls it, has as much to do with reading,

writing, and arithmetic, as it does with the development of interpersonal skills, entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity. I'd add to this a love of learning, a sense of curiosity, and the ability to accept responsibility.

Attending to these intangibles is a hallmark of a Hilltop Country Day School education. It is what makes our graduates, including those who struggle in the classroom, so attractive to secondary schools. They enter these high schools as confident, thoughtful children, possessing leadership skills, connected to the community and comfortable in their own skin. They are a positive force in their schools and these schools have come to expect this from our graduates. These outcomes speak less to our published curricula and more to our culture and our ethos as dictated by our mission.

We have great teachers at Hilltop Country Day School and we have a rigorously developed curriculum. We also attend to the value-added at our school as we look beyond the test scores and beyond the three "Rs" and think as much about whom our children are becoming as what they are learning.

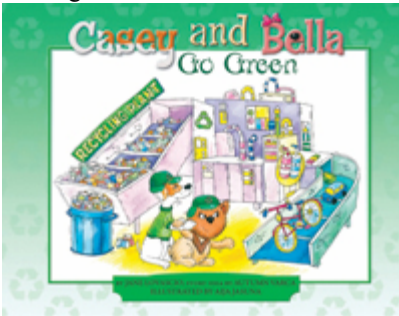


Author Visit!

On Thursday, November 19, HCDS is thrilled to welcome picture book author, Jane Lovascio.



She will be speaking to the entire school giving age appropriate presentations. Ms. Lovascio will also sign books in the library. A portion of her book sales will benefit a special charity and our library. Please be on the lookout for order forms coming home soon.



Art Show Panels Receive a Face-Lift



A very big thank you to our Hilltop parents pictured above. On the Sunday before the annual Art Exhibition and Sale Bill Haggerty, Blake Hargrave, Dana Haggerty and Damon Arapkiles along with Development Director Ginnie Ramberger spent the morning repairing and painting the panels for the

artwork. This was a very necessary project and many people commented on how nice the panels looked compared to the previous year.

Border's Shopping Day!

Please join us for Hilltop's shopping benefit days at the Border's bookstore just outside the Rockaway Mall at 327 Mt. Hope Ave. Hilltop will receive 10% of any eligible purchases made on Friday, Nov. 13 & Saturday, Nov. 14. Proceeds from this event will benefit our visiting authors program. Please feel free to copy and distribute this coupon to family and friends. If you have any questions, please contact Maryann Doherty or Joanna Guarda.



HPA Flash...

Jean Kovacs & Christy Cramer
Appreciation-HPA Style

There are many ways to support our school and we'd like to thank all of our parents who are giving their time by helping out in classrooms, buying ShopRite Cards, using their Target Redcards, and organizing fun AND fundraising events.

The HPA would also like to encourage all parents to support our area businesses that support Hilltop. Read over the list of some of the services and vendors who have lent their financial support to our school and please keep them in mind when you are in need of a similar service. Let's show our appreciation by using them whenever we can. This month we'll feature:

- **Buckles and Bows** in Sparta
- **Sparta Dental Designs** in Sparta
- **Anna Beth's Aesthetics** in Sparta

- **Cliff's Homemade Ice Cream** in Ledgewood
- **Casa Bellissima** in Andover

Good luck trying some of these vendors and their goods and services. Let us know what you think. Let's share the good word!

Speaking of sharing the good word a big THANK YOU goes out to all Homeroom Parents who help keep all of us parents informed and organized. Now THAT'S a task! They are on the front lines of parent to teacher to administrator to HPA communication. Please use them as a resource.

*Remember, however, to see your child's teacher directly with any specific academic or classroom concerns. Our Hilltop teachers are the best and always willing to make themselves available for us and our children.

Autumn/Holiday Wine and Champagne night is in the works. Amanda Spina and volunteers are working on this year's evening which will have a few special additions. A parent-driven evening, the proceeds from this special gathering go directly to future playground development. Details forthcoming!

NEXT HPA MEETING- November 10 at 8:30AM Location-tbd. Bring a food item for the Thanksgiving Food Drive!!! Thank you for sharing.

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