



March 2020 Hilltop Happenings



Special Dates

3/1/2020: Uno's Fundraiser for Hilltop School

3/7/2020: Family Outing at Playland Adventures 10:00 a.m. -Please pre-pay by Thursday 3/5/2020 so we can add your name to the list.

3/18/2020: Scholastic Book Orders Due-Online order code: N3VWH

3/18/2020: Parent/Guardian Group Meeting 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.-We will be providing childcare for those that attend the meeting and



Hello Hilltop Families!

March is gearing up to be a busy month here at Hilltop School. We will be starting our month off with our dining fundraiser at Uno's restaurant in Bangor on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Up to 20 percent of each guest check will be donated to Hilltop School. Attendees just need to show the dining ticket stating they are there for the fundraiser. We hope to see some of you there!

Don't forget our family outing at Playland Adventures is Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The admission is good all day so you can stay as long as you want. Olaf will be making a special appearance at 11:00 a.m. You can sign up on the table located outside the office. Please remember to make sure to bring in payment by Thursday, March 5, 2020.

We will be having our first Parent/Guardian Group Meeting this month on March 19, 2020 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is a chance for families to come and talk with us about the program. We will share any ideas we have for the program and we would love to hear your ideas. We will be offering childcare during this time for families attending the meeting. Please sign up in the office if you plan on attending the meeting. This will help us accurately plan for the number of staff needed to provide childcare and help us plan for how many chairs we need to set up for the meeting. We hope to see you there.

All of our classrooms will be offering conferences as we head into March. Available dates and times along with a sign-up sheet will be posted in each classroom. If the times available do not work for you please let your child's teacher know and we can work to find a time that does work. Conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher outside of the classroom and they are optional. Information should be posted soon.

I have some exciting news about an upcoming project at the center. Starting

around the end of May we will be installing a brand-new heating system here at the school. This will be an 8-week project and it will include the installation of fresh air exchangers. Fresh air exchangers constantly renew the indoor air bringing several benefits such as: significant improvements in air quality, reduced risk of mold or mildew, elimination of pollutants, moisture evacuation, etc... They will be removing the current radiators in the classrooms and installing new heating units and each classroom will have their own thermostat. We will update you all as soon as we have a start date for this project.

It doesn't seem possible but we are already at the point in the year when we need to start looking into summer and fall enrollment. You will be receiving a form to fill out letting us know your summer and fall plans for your child. Please turn these in by Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The reason we need to start looking into enrollment now is because we have a waiting list of 40 children that are hoping to get slots and more children go on the wait list every week and with the heating project this summer it's possible we may need to combine some rooms or have rooms temporarily move to the third floor while they work in the classrooms. This will help us to accurately plan for our staffing needs and give us ample time to let wait list families know if they will be getting a slot or not so they still have time to look elsewhere if needed.

Hilltop School just launched a brand-new website this week. Our old website builder became outdated which is why we have not been able to update it recently. Our new site went live today and we encourage you to check it out. Under family resources we have announcements for current families and if you scroll down, we have a copy of the current menu, the monthly newsletter, and other documents that may be helpful. We hope to add to the site in the future as well.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let us know.

Warmly, Miss Tracy and Miss Jenica



Dear Families,

Hello from the Toddler room! We hope your February has been as fun as ours! We've done lots of things to stay busy this month.

First, we explored a wonderful, sweet and (kind of) spicy thing called Gingerbread! We read different stories about the Gingerbread Man and his many adventures. We all worked together to make a giant Gingerbread kid of our own to hang up for all to see. We played with gingerbread cloud dough, but our most favorite was decorating (and of course eating) gingerbread cookies! They were delicious!

The next week we talked about friendship, love and kindness. We learned how to be a good friend and how to be kind and help each other. We shared lots of hugs, we read stories about love and friends. We made heart puppies, Valentine's boxes, sparkling sensory bottles, and "LOVE" pictures for mom and dad.

Next, we took a trip to visit polar bears to see where and how they live. We did an experiment with Crisco and ice cold water to learn how they stay warm when it's cold by layering the "fat" in between two plastic bags. We put the bags in the water, then put our hands and arms inside the bag to see if we could feel the cold. It was discovered that we could not, in fact, feel the cold through the "fat". And that, is how Polar Bears stay warm! We also made bear faces with cotton balls, and bear bodies with glue and rice, and even bears with our handprints. (You can find those on our bulletin board with our snowmen).

During the last week of February, we thought it would be fun to check out Mardi Gras! We made King Crowns, complete with glitter, jewels, and fanciness! We also painted with bead necklaces, made beautiful masks with feathers and sparkly things and created our own, music shakers and sensory bottles. We had a blast dancing to Mardi Gras parade music too. It was so much fun! February sure was busy! We

hope March will be just as fun and exciting!

Miss Janessah and Miss Kate



February was an exciting month in Miss Anatalie's class! We welcomed Miss Haley to class as one of the lead teachers and are very happy she is with us! We learned about shapes, kindness, fairy tales, and the alphabet this month.

We had a lot of fun learning about shapes and different shapes through stamping with shapes, and making a shape garland.

We are always learning and practicing kindness and had fun with kindness activities during kindness week. We played together in a kindness sensory bin and made a kindness bouquet.

In fairy tale week we had a lot of fun doing a size sort with "peas" from the Princess and the Pea, and making a crown like Elsa's to practice skills in concept development and fine motor, and creativity in making ourselves a crown.

Learning about the alphabet was a great week with lots of activities. One of our favorites was the alphabet drop that practiced fine motor skills.

We are excited and looking forward to March and learning all kinds of new skills!

Until next time,
Miss Anatalie and Miss Haley



Hello families!!

We have just LOVED February!! We had so much fun during our week on music, we made and gave valentines for our friends and family, we talked about how to keep our teeth clean, and we learned about robots!!

During our week on music we learned about how music is made, we learned the different musical instruments, and we

learned about how songs can be made into books. Our favorite was What A Wonderful World, the book was very colorful and the song was fun to listen to.

Then we had our week on friendship and Valentine's Day. We worked on making valentines for our families, we decorated out bags for friends to put our valentines in to. We made heart headbands. We talked a lot about how to be a better friend and how we can have as many friends as we want. We played with new and old friends. And of course, we had our Valentine's Day party! A huge thank you to all of the families who brought in all of the delicious treats!!

On the third week we talked about how to keep our teeth clean and free of sugar bugs!! We practiced brushing a big pair of teeth with a really big toothbrush! We did a science experiment about how different liquids can affect our teeth like soda, vinegar, and water. We used wet erase markers and sponges and practiced getting all of the plaque off of the teeth.

During our week on robots we made shape robots, we talked about all the things that robots can do. We pretended to be robots. We made noises like robots. We read stories about robots and watched a cool video about different things robots do!

Next month we will be learning about Dr. Seuss and celebrating his birthday, then we will be learning about turtles, then sharks, whales, and finally learning about fish!!

We again ask that all families bring home blankets, sheets, and pillows, to wash over the weekend during cold a flu season.

If you have any questions comments or concerns please feel free to call us at the school or email us at misskenyonhilltop@gmail.com or missvaleriehilltop@gmail.com

Miss Kenyon and Miss Valerie



Hello, from Preschool Room #5. While February has been a bit chilly and snowy, we are keeping warm and busy here in Room #5.

We started our month with a unit all about penguins. After learning about the Arctic and Antarctic, it was only natural to want to learn more about penguins. We learned about many different types of penguins, their habitats, their eating habits, as well as their family structure. The children were surprised to learn how the penguins keep their eggs safe and warm, and how they care for their babies. We learned about the largest species of penguins (Emperor Penguins – Thank you, Miss Michelle, for the wonderful life-size drawing of an Emperor penguin). We couldn't believe how tall they are. We froze some plastic penguins and worked very hard to figure out how to melt the ice until they were all free. We used our problem-solving skills for this activity. To help reinforce shapes recognition, we used various shapes to create penguins. We created an Arctic classroom scene, which included an igloo and frozen fishing pond. We caught lots of fish and cooked them up over our pretend fire in our igloo.

Next, we learned all about friendship and kindness. We spent the week exploring ways to show others that we care about them and what it means to be a friend. We practiced our prewriting skills in our writing center, where we made cards for friends and family. We worked on cooperative skills in the Block area by creating structures together. We continued working on cooperative skills by making friendship hearts where we partnered with a friend and created a beautiful heart picture. We made friendship bracelets that we gave to a special someone. We ended the week by joining Miss Dawn's class to make a friendship trail mix. It was a yummy way to share.

Next, the children wanted to learn about farm life and different farm animals. We worked on letter recognition with a fun alphabet hay bale activity. We also worked on numbers with a farm animal activity. We turned our Dramatic Play area into a farmyard (including a big red barn) with lots of farm animals. The children took turns being the farmer or the animals by using fun animal masks. We reinforced shapes recognition by creating some wonderful shapes pigs.

Our last week in February will be spent learning all about dental health. We will review foods that are healthy for our teeth, the best way to brush to fight those sugar bugs and take home a brushing chart to help us remember to brush daily. Until next time.....

REMINDERS:

- *Please be sure to provide your child with extra clothes and mittens. We want to be sure to keep our little ones warm and dry.
- *Please remember to take your child's nap things home on Friday's for washing.
- *We are trying to create a classroom family album. Please feel free to bring in any family photos that you would like to add to the book.

Until next time,
Miss Laurie



Hello Families!

I hope that you all are enjoying your winter! I know that we have been!

This past month we have had so much fun playing in the snow! We made snow angels, tracks in the snow, looked for animal prints and went sliding down the hill! Inside we have been learning about friendship and ways to show someone you care about them. Dramatic Play has been a nursery for taking care of babies and has been a big hit with the children. As always, we love doing art and messy sensory activities! We made snowman suncatchers, symmetry hearts, painted, and as a

classroom group activity we made a love bug!

The Kiddos had so much fun on Valentine's Day delivering their mail to special friends and Miss. Laurie's friends joined us to make friendship trail mix!

In March we will try to catch a Leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day! I'm sure you will all hear lots about it!

Thank You,

Miss Dawn



Are you a dipper or are you a filler is the question? After reading the book, *Have you Filled Your Bucket Today?* By Carol McCloud, we discussed who is a dipper and who is a filler. We all agreed to be fillers not dippers. As a class we decided to do a project to prove that we can be dippers by filling a large jar of small colorful poms for every good/helpful deed we can demonstrate. So far, we have done 135 deeds. Wow! When the time has come and our jar is full, we will have a special surprise for showing kindness and positive actions.

Our other interesting subject we would like to share is; we took a survey of "What does love mean to you?" Here are all of our awesome responses:

Sophie: Kisses from mom

Gwen: Staying home with mom

Ariya: Playing with my dad

Elliot: I love my mom (she is nice to me).

Mason: Nick loves mama and mama loves Nick.

Jackson: Happy things

Vivian: My dad is love because I love him.

Josie: I love my mom and her hugs.

Hunter: Love is surprises

Jeremy: My mom because she does the laundry.

Ian: Mom cooks things and dad buys things.

Audrey: My dad loves my mom.

Miles: Love is my brother, he is silly.

Brielle: Love is being helpful.
Abbie: I love my mom and dad because they hug me and love me.
Clover: Kindness and sharing, I love mama.
Aria Rose: I love mommy and daddy.
Miss Kathy: Family and friends an spending time with them.
Miss Cassie: Love is family, love is life.

There you have it love and kindness is what it is all about!

Until next time,
Miss Kathy and Miss Cassie



Dear Hilltop Pre-k Families,

February came and went in the blink of an eye! Our class started off our month learning all about penguins! We had fun learning all about the different types of penguins, how they stay warm, what they eat, and how they care for their young!

We also learned all about love, friendship, and of course, Valentine's Day! We celebrated Mardi Gras with an authentic King Cake from Gambino's bakery in New Orleans, and we got to wear beads and masks to celebrate the fun day!

We ended the month by learning all about Fairy Tales. We can tell you all about what story elements make up a fairy tale. We learned that fairy tales always start with "Once upon a time", and end with "happily ever after." We also learned that there is usually a villain, and good people in fairy tales, animals act like humans, and the setting is usually in the woods, or in a castle. Ask your child to tell you about some more fairy tale elements, and be prepared to be amazed at their responses!

Please check your child's daily note home for important days in March. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss, and we will be having parent conferences in March as well.

Until next time,
Miss Michelle
MissMichelleHilltop@gmail.com
