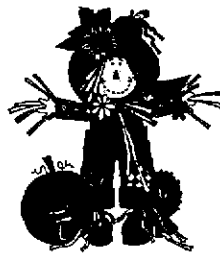




# November 2018 Hilltop Happenings



## Special Dates

11/12/18: Veteran's Day- Hilltop School Closed

11/16/18: Scholastic Book Order Due-School Code-N3VWH

11/23/18 and 11/24/18: Hilltop School closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

11/26/18: T-shirt orders due- order forms available in the office



---

## Hello Hilltop Families!

It's hard to believe that we are entering the month of November already. Please remember that November weather can change rapidly from day to day. One day it could be warm and in the high 50's while the next it could be 32 degrees and very chilly. Please make sure your child has layers to wear within the classroom as temperature can fluctuate and please make sure your child has a warm jacket, a hat, and mittens or gloves (preferably waterproof). Once snow is on the ground please send your child with a pair of snow pants and boots each day. We will go outside each day, weather permitting, as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above factoring in wind chill.

During the month of October, children were visited by the Bangor Fire Department. They did a demonstration for the children about the types of gear they use when going into a fire and taught the children about the functions of each item on the fire truck. The children also had the opportunity to sit in the truck. We would like to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedule to come visit us.

As we enter the winter months when it gets dark earlier in the evening, please make sure you are using extreme caution when entering or exiting the driveway and backing out of parking spaces.

We wanted to take this opportunity to go over our winter weather policy. We strive to be open for families, however, there are several different factors we must take into consideration when making a decision, with safety of families, staff, and children being a top priority. If Hilltop School should need to close due to inclement weather, it will be posted on WLBZ 2, WABI 5, and WVII 7 as well as our Facebook page. We also

have a parent email list set up for those who provided emails at the time of enrollment, and an email would be sent out if there was an occasion when we needed to close. If we have opened for the day and there is a need to close early we would still post it on the tv stations and on Facebook but we would also call each family of children in attendance. If you are unsure if we have updated contact information for you please make sure to stop in the office. There is no tuition fee reduction on days we need to close due to inclement weather.

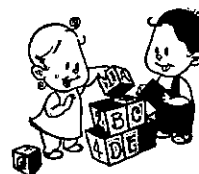
During the month of November, we will be holding a t-shirt fundraiser. We will be selling Hilltop School T-shirts which will be available in short sleeve or long sleeve and come in toddler, youth, and adult sizes. Be on the lookout for flyers with more information and a picture of the design. We have order forms available in the office for anyone interested in purchasing t-shirts. All orders will need to be in by Monday, November 26, 2018 so that there is enough time to place the order and have it back in time for the holidays.

Looking ahead, please remember that Hilltop School will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2018 in observance of Veteran's day and on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, 2018 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything please let us know.

Warmly, Miss Bethany and Miss Tracy

---



Hello readers!

Miss Kylee and Miss Kate's class has had a busy and exciting October! It's hard to believe that we are already in

the month of November. Over this past month we have conducted activities and talked about animals that live in the woods (Maine animals such as moose, deer, squirrels, racoons and beavers), leaves, fire trucks and owls.

During our forest animal week, we read *Busy Beavers* by Lydia Dabovich, and *Nuts to You* by Lois Ehlert. We explored new art materials as we painted with sticks that we collected during our outside time. We practiced our fine motor skills by stringing pipe cleaners through animal pictures. We were also able to use these pictures to identify the different animals that live in the forest and practice our language expression and comprehension.

By the second week of October we started our leaf unit. We collected leaves to put in our sensory bin, we painted with leaves and we glued leaves on our own trees. With the help from our teachers we made a leaf pile on the hill outside and jumped into it with our friends. Once we were done jumping in the pile we had fun searching for our lost gloves.

Did you hear that? Sounds like a fire truck!! In preparation for our rescheduled fire truck visit we had our very own fire truck week. We listened to fire truck songs and the noises that fire trucks make. Some of the books that we read were *Fire Engine No. 9* by Mike Austin, *Firebears the Rescue Team* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, and *Firehouse!* By Mark Teague. For art during this week we glued the shapes of a fire truck (circles for tires, a rectangle for the ladder, and a square for the window,) and painted with the colors of fire (yellow, red and orange.) We are well prepared for when our visit with the truck occurs.

Whoo, Whoo!! For our last week of October, we talked about owls! We listened to owl sounds and imitated the owls as we read books and saw their pictures. We created a couple of our own versions of owls. We made owl puppets by gluing feathers and googly

eyes onto paper bags. We also created owl faces by painting paper plates brown and painting cupcake wrappers for the eyes. A couple of the books that we read were *Owls in the Fall* by Melvin and Gilda Berger, *Owls Live in Trees* by Melvin and Gilda Berger, and *ZZZZ A Book of Sleep* by Il Sung Na.

A reminder from Miss Kylee and Miss Kate: We are approaching this winter season very quickly and we would like you to pack hats, mittens, boots, warm coats and on our snowy days snow pants! Please make sure to label them with your child's name.

A note from Miss Kylee: As some may know October was my last month of teaching at Hilltop School. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with my toddlers and interact with the children in the other classrooms as well. Thank you all for contributing to my wonderful and memorable first year of teaching. Miss Kate will be remaining in the classroom and is looking forward to getting to know all the children even better.

Best, Miss Kylee and Miss Kate

---



October has been a fun month in our classroom. We started off the month talking about the Fall season and the colorful trees we are seeing. We had fun painting some of our very own colorful leaves. We also made autumn wreaths to help celebrate the season. They were a great fall decoration for our classroom and it was a great way to end our unit.

One of our favorite books this month was "Caps for Sale". We loved the part with the monkeys and thought they were silly as they stole the man's caps. We have read it quite a few times this month!

We met one of our new substitutes, Miss Megan. She had a lot of new and

fun ideas and activities for us. We especially loved the unique music and movement activities she brought along with her.

At the very end of the month we had a visit from the Bangor Fire Department. Unfortunately, it got short due to an emergency call they had to go to but we did get to see the fire truck for a few minutes and meet the firefighters we enjoyed seeing the truck with it's lights on as it pulled away.

Miss Kerri and Miss Janessah

---



Hello Families,

We have had a wonderful October! We have been spending lots of time outside playing in the leaves and sandbox while we still can! We had so much fun during our apple week! We ate lots of apples, we painted with apples, found the star hidden in the apple, we made apple crisp and man was that good!!

During pumpkin week we explored the different aspects of the pumpkin like the texture of the outside, how slimy the inside feels, the different things you can do with seeds. We talked about how they smell, and finally we used our measuring skills to make a no bake pumpkin pie!

During the last week in October we will be talking about the different things that come out at night like the moon and stars, bats, owls, black cats, and pajamas!!! On Friday November 2nd we had a pajama day and each child got to bring a stuffed animal. We talked about them and spent the day showing our stuffed animals around our school.

In November we will be talking about vegetables, the other people in our family, turkeys, and what we are thankful for. We have lots of fun activities and projects planned!

As always if you have any questions comments or concerns please feel free to email Miss Kenyon or Miss Val at [misskenyonhilltop@gmail.com](mailto:misskenyonhilltop@gmail.com) and [missvaleriehilltop@gmail.com](mailto:missvaleriehilltop@gmail.com)!

See you next time,  
Miss Kenyon and Miss Valerie

---



Hello from all of us in Room #5. What a beautiful fall! As my family and I drove back from South Carolina returning from vacation, I was so surprised to see the colors of our wonderful Maine trees. What a treat to return to such beauty. A big thank you to everyone that covered for me while I was away. The children tell me they had a lot of fun learning about Harold and his purple crayon. They said that they enjoyed learning blue and red make purple and following all of Harold's wonderful adventures in the stories that they heard. It was great to come back and hear their excitement.

Our second week in October was Fire Prevention week. We learned about fire safety, fire drills and Stop, Drop, and Roll (I think learning about this might have been a class favorite). The children did a wonderful job of practicing our fire drill routine. We looked at pictures of what a firefighter looks like before and after they put on all of their gear. We also learned that firefighters are there to help us and that we do not need to be afraid when we see them. We used shapes to make some great looking fire trucks.

Next, we moved on to explore why leaves change color and the four seasons. Our week started off by going on a nature leaf hunt in the woods. The children were so excited to find so many fallen leaves. We found red, yellow and orange leaves everywhere. As we were exploring in the woods, the children

giggled with excitement as the wind blew and the leaves fell down around them like rain. We have so much to discover all around our beautiful school. We learned about the importance of leaves on a tree. We traced our hands onto coffee filters and made some very pretty watercolor leaves. We played a musical leaf game that helped with letter recognition.

Next, we moved on to apples and apple trees. We read the story Ten Apples on Top. We tried balancing apples on our heads and found that it was harder than it looked in the book. We played a number apple toss game that helped with number recognition. We sampled 4 different types of apples – Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Pink Lady and Granny Smith – The Red Delicious, Golden Delicious and the Granny Smith were class favorites. We also created our own colorful apples using small paper plates and tissue paper. Our last week of October we will be learning about spiders and bats.

#### REMINDERS:

Please be sure to provide you child with a warm coat, boots, hats and mittens – It can be very chilly in the morning during our outside time – Please be sure to label your child's items with their name.

Until next time,  
Miss Laurie

---



Hello Family and Friends!

This month we have been learning about Fall leaves. We have been painting with colors yellow, orange, and red. Our favorite art project was painting with watercolors using fall colors on leaves. We went outside on a fall leaf scavenger hunt and found lots of leaves. It was interesting to compare shapes and sizes. We took an even closer look

to see the leaves by using magnifying glasses. We read the story "We're going on a Leaf Hunt" by Steve Metzger. We twirled around and around and fell to the ground just like falling leaves!

Next we learned about pumpkins. We made playdough pumpkin pie after we read the story Oh My, Pumpkin Pie by Charles Ghigna. We practiced our fine motor skills by using pumpkin lacing cards. The preschoolers did an awesome job with lacing.

We ended the month by talking about things in the night- owls, bats, moon, and stars. It was fun trying to jump way up high and catch a glitter star as we read the story How to Catch A Star by Oliver Jeffers. We pretended to be owls and made silly owl sounds and flapped our arms as we flew around the room like bats. We made bat houses using the waffle blocks in the block area. During our "creepy crawling spider" week we will be making egg carton spiders and spider webs using yarn.

Miss Amy

---



Hello there everyone! It's the Pre-K kids reporting from the big red building! It's been a while since we talked, so we would like to catch you up on what we have been up to.

We started the month of October off by collecting tons of different colors, shapes, and sizes of leaves. We made awesome leaf people and jumped in the largest leaf pile ever.

During fire prevention week, we discussed, explored, and learned many ways to stay safe if there was ever a fire. We were the fortunate group to meet, visit, and have the opportunity to sit in the fire truck from the Bangor Fire Department. Next we moved onto

community helpers. We discovered that some of our moms and dads are community helpers and didn't even know it.

If you ask us we saved the best for last. "Bats, Bats, Bats" was our next interesting subject to learn and talk about. Did you know bats are mammals just like us? Bats can eat as many bugs and insects in one night as much as they weigh. The smallest bat is the bumblebee bat. He weighs as much as a dime. The biggest bat is the Samoan Flying Fox and it is as big as an adult person. We made bat puppets and sleeping bats that are hanging in our classroom. Did you know bats sleep upside down?

We thought that was very silly, and hard to do! Well, we hope you have enjoyed reconnecting with us. I bet you will be hearing from us again real soon.

Until next time,  
Miss Kathy and Miss Cassie

---



Hello from Miss Nicole's Pre-K!  
We had a very busy October. We learned about apples, fire safety, monsters, nocturnal animals, and finished the month with pumpkins!

During apple week, we taste tested 3 different types of apples: Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and Red Delicious. Friends then voted for their favorite apple, and charted their answers. We also learned about the parts of the apple and the apple life cycle. A fun craft we did, was apple prints! We dipped our apples in paint and pressed them all over the paper!

Fire safety week, we learned about how to crawl under smoke if there's a fire, and played a fun game where we rescued the alphabet by crawling under

the "smoke" to get to them! We LOVED this! We built our own fire trucks using shapes. Pre-k did lots of stop, drop, and rolling (some friends even pretended to do so on the playground during outside time)! The fire truck came to visit this week, but due to a call had to leave before we got a chance to see it.

Thankfully, they were able to come back for another visit! We got an activity book and a fire hat to bring home. While practicing our scissor skills, we cut out pictures that were hot or not. Friends had to choose if the picture was hot or not. Every month we practice a fire drill. Where is your "safe place" to go to at your house if there ever was a fire? Discuss this with your child!

Next, we learned about monsters. We discussed if monsters were real, or make believe. While reading "Sad Monster, Glad Monster" we talked about our feelings and what makes us sad, mad, glad, etc. We also made a classroom book featuring monsters that we drew and wrote what the monster was doing.

Next, we talked about nocturnal animals! We talked about the terms nocturnal and diurnal. Friends came up with different animals that were nocturnal, and learned that bats sleep upside down! We made spiders out of play dough and used pipe cleaners to make arms. We also formed different types of nocturnal animals with the play dough, we loved doing this! We practiced our writing skills by copying different nocturnal animal words. On display in the classroom, is the children's favorite nocturnal animal that they learned about during this week. Our favorite activity of the week, was using pattern blocks to build different nocturnal animals: bat, spider, owl, snail, and a cat a mouse. Pattern blocks have been a real hit lately in the classroom!

To end the month of October, we learned about pumpkins! We started by describing the pumpkin, and guessing how many cubes tall each pumpkin was

and then measured each one. Using our fine motor skills, we cut out different shapes to decorate a pumpkins face. They're currently hanging up in the classroom, check them out! Exploring the pumpkin guts was a fun experience. Children got to take turns exploring the inside of a pumpkin while others used tongs to transfer pumpkin seeds to a different container. Our last activity of the week will be to do a science experiment inside the pumpkin and see what happens when you mix together baking soda and vinegar! Try this at home, it's a lot of fun!

With the cold weather approaching, I'm asking families to make sure that your child has a warm jacket, two hats, two pairs of gloves (in case one set gets wet during the first outside time) and snow pants and boots for when the snow arrives! Please make sure that everything is LABELED just in case things get mixed together or they go missing, I will know who they belong to. Show and tell is every Wednesday, if you have brought in a toy from home, please make sure that you bring it home that evening as toys can be a distraction to the classroom. Also, check folders daily as there are sometimes important information in there, or your child's artwork that has been done! As always, if you have any questions feel free to email me at: [missnicolehilltop@gmail.com](mailto:missnicolehilltop@gmail.com)! We're looking forward to a busy November month!

Until next time,  
Miss Nicole

---