



Hello Hilltop Families!

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. It's so hard to believe the holiday season is upon us!

As you know, Jenica Frazier, our new assistant director started on Monday, November 18, 2019. I hope most of you have had a chance to meet her and for those of you that have not feel free to stop in anytime. With Jenica joining the team, Tracy's hours will now be 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Jenica's hours will be 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

During the month of December classrooms will be learning about all the holidays of the season and learning about ways these holidays are celebrated in different cultures. If any of you have any holiday traditions or customs that you would like to come in and share with your child's class please let the teacher know. All holidays activities will be linked with the Early Childhood Learning standards and out of respect for all families none of the holidays are taught from a religious perspective. If you have any concerns about holiday activities please see us in the office.

During the month of December, we also like to teach children about giving. Each year we choose an organization to collect donations for and this year we are pleased to announce that we will be collecting donations for the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers Christmas Program. This organization distributes gift boxes and clothing to

over 1700 financially disadvantaged families throughout our state. We will be posting a list of items that they are in need of and there will be a box in the lobby if any of you would like to donate. We will also have tags on the tree that list items needed. Feel free to grab a tag and then once you have the item you can bring it back with the tag and place it in the box. WE will be collecting donations until Thursday, December 19, 2019.

The ACH is finally up and running. If you are interested in signing up for ACH payments please stop by the office to pick up a form. There is an annual \$10 fee for this service which should be paid by check when signing up.

For the safety of everyone, please drive slowly as you enter and exit our parking lot and please be aware of your surroundings when parking and backing up. This has been a huge concern recently as we have seen several cars coming up the hill and exiting the hill at high rates of speed which poses a huge safety risk. We ask that all families make sure that you are also holding your child's hand as you exit the building with them. Please do not let them run out of the building alone as this also poses a huge safety risk with cars going through the portico.

We are currently working on updating all of the paperwork in child files. If your contact information has changed please let us know so we can have you fill out a new emergency form. If you have received a letter about immunizations and doctor's forms and have not yet turned them in please do so as soon as possible. There will also be more letters going

out as we go through the rest of the files. It is a licensing requirement that we keep this paperwork updated.

In the next month or two we will be replacing the guardrail on side by the playground. We do not yet have a date but the work will go on for 2-3 days. During this time cars will still be able to enter and exit the driveway as normal, we just ask that you use caution. As soon as we have a date that the work will be completed, we will let you all know.

Within the next week you will notice that there will be a checklist asking which days your child will be attending during the holiday week at the end of the month. The reason we post a checklist for certain weeks during the year is because those are weeks when we typically have lower numbers. They are also weeks when many teachers have requested time off. We do the checklist to help us plan for our staffing needs that week and it helps us to know if we can approve the time off for the teachers during those weeks. We are open and we will be here and your child can attend on their regularly scheduled days. It's just simply a guideline for us to plan for staffing needs. We hope that clears up any confusion that occurred when we put up the thanksgiving week checklist. If you have any questions please feel free to stop by the office.

You will notice a change in the office. The green meeting room that is across the hall from the main office is now going to be Tracy's office. The reason for this change is to allow for a more confidential space for families and staff to come in with any questions or concerns that they may

have. With the main office being so open it was often difficult to have any confidential conversations and phone calls. The door will be open unless there is a meeting going on so please feel free to stop in any time even if it's just to say hello. Jenica and our office manager will still be in the main office all day when they are here.

Just a reminder to always check your child's mailbox each day and look for any announcements that are put up on the board by the sign in and sign out sheets.

December scholastic book orders are available on the family resource cart in the lobby. Due to it being just a few weeks until the holiday all orders need to be in by 4:00 p.m. on December 9th in order to get guaranteed delivery by Dec. 20th before the holiday. This is a much quicker turnaround then we typically have. Online orders can be placed using our online code M3VWH. If doing a paper order there is an envelope in the main office attached to the wall by the sign in and sign out books labeled scholastic book orders, please place paper orders in an envelope with a check made out to scholastic and put it in that folder. Since payments go directly to the company, we cannot accept cash for book orders.

Hilltop School will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for the holiday and Wednesday, January 1, 2019 for New Year's Day. If you need a current copy of the holiday schedule it can be viewed online at <http://www.bangorhilltopschoo.com> in the family resources section or feel free to stop by the office.

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,

Can you believe this year is almost over?! This year has flown by! We are excited for the holiday season and can't wait for all of the fun things we have planned!

We stayed busy during the month of November. Some of our favorite things to do were playing with cars on our new rug with roads, singing and dancing with Miss Julie, coloring pasta for sensory bottles, and painting!

We hope we have as much fun in December! Stay tuned to see all of the awesome things we make and explore!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Our emails are: missjanessahhilltop@gmail.com misskatehilltop@gmail.com.

Miss Janessah and Miss Kate



Hello Hilltop Families! For the first week of November, our theme was Laura Numeroff books. We read *If You Give a Mouse a Brownie* and made our own brownies. We read *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* and made

play-doh cupcakes. We also read *If You Give a Pig a Party* and decorated party hats.

Next, we learned about colors. We wrote in a rainbow writing tray. We used spray bottles to make a giant color mural. We used baking soda and vinegar to make "fizzy" colors.

Then we did nursery rhyme themed activities. We read *Humpty Dumpty* and did an "egg splat" sensory bin with plastic eggs filled with rice and a bucket with paint. We read *I'm a Little Teapot* and played in a water table with a tea set. We also read *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* and made our own star twirlers.

For the last week of November we celebrated Thanksgiving! We made Thanksgiving wreaths, used pipe cleaners to make "turkey tracks," and made pumpkin butter for a yummy snack!

For new skills this month, we worked on putting our own snow pants and boots. We also practiced serving ourselves food during lunchtime.

REMINDERS:

- Please make sure to LABEL all winter gear (coat, hat, mittens, etc.) to help us keep track of your belongings.
- Please make sure to take your blankets home to be washed at the END of the week, specially with flu season coming
- Please remember to read our parent board to look for important announcements on pajama days coming up, etc.

Until next time,
Miss Anatalie and Miss Gabrielle



Hello Families,

We have had a fun November! We learned about airplanes, cars, the fall harvest, and Thanksgiving!

First we talked about airplanes, we talked about all the things we know about airplanes, then we talked about pilots. We talked about all the places we have gone on airplanes and the places we would like to go. We made shape airplanes it was so much fun!

During our week on cars we read a lot of books about different cars, we learned about what things cars had on them and what the different parts are for. We talked about our families cars and if our families had big cars or little cars or trucks! We talked about what rules cars had to follow and we made cars out of shapes!

Next, we did our week on the fall harvest. We talked about how farmers harvest vegetables so that we can eat them, we talked about what equipment farmers use to harvest their crops, we played in a dried corn sensory table. We colored lots of pictures of vegetables and farmers.

Lastly, we talked about Thanksgiving, we read some great books about Thanksgiving, we made turkey sun catchers and colored turkeys. And we played outside a lot!!

Next month we will be learning about hibernation, Christmas/ The Polar Express, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Years!!!

We would like to remind our families that with the weather

changing please make sure that your child has weather appropriate extra clothes as well as an extra couple of pairs of pants and socks.

Also as we get into cold and flu season, we ask that all families please bring home blankets and pillow cases every Friday to take home to be washed.

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to call us at school or email us at misskenyonhilltop@gmail.com and missvaleriehilltop@gmail.com.

Until next time,
Miss Kenyon and Miss Valerie



Hello, from Preschool Room #5 – It always seems like winter comes earlier each year. Perhaps, it just that I am dreading the cold, snowy weather that is sure to come. However, we plan to keep busy in our classroom, learning lots of new and exciting things.

In our first week of November, we explored colors and numbers. Thanks to Miss Haley and Miss Megan for covering while I was out. I hear there were lots of fun activities, and everyone learned a lot about colors and letters. I saw that the class made a beautiful rainbow picture. It sure put a smile on my face.

In our next two weeks of November, we looked at hibernation, migration, and adaption. First, we created our own classroom bear (paper, of course).

We all voted and decided to call him Fuzzy the Bear. He lives up on a shelf in our classroom. We check on him weekly to see if he is still in his cave sleeping. We are also watching two bears in Canada via a webcam. Their names are Coola and Grinder. We have been watching them prepare their den with bedding (grass, etc.). The last time we checked, they were all curled up and sleeping. We will give you updates as the months go on. We set up our own bear's den in our classroom. We have been having lots of fun crawling in and cuddling up with our stuffies from home. We have learned about birds that migrate to warmer temperatures. We also looked at pictures of birds that fly in a V formation. We looked at animals that adapt (rabbits, deer, etc.). We talked about how people adapt to winter, as well. We put on winter coats, hats, mittens, etc. We also talked about how our moms and dads get our homes ready for winter. We all agree that it might be nice to hibernate like the bears and sleep through the cold winter months. It sure has been a lot of fun learning about the different ways to get through the winter.

Our last week in November, we will be reading the story; There was an Old Lady that Swallowed a Pie. There are lots of fun activities planned for this week. We may not get to eat pie, but maybe there will be a treat or two to try.

REMINDERS:

*As we move into the colder months, please be sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and mittens as the

weather in the mornings and afternoons can be a bit chilly.

*Please be sure your child has a few changes of clothes in their bags (please include socks and underwear)

*If your child would like to have a pillow for rest-time, please provide a small pillow that will fit easily into the bottom of their cubby.

*It is helpful for your child to have a water bottle in their cubby (No water bottles please)

*Your child may bring a soft stuffy to have at rest-time – No toys from home please – We have lots to keep us busy at school.

Until next time,
Miss Laurie



Hello from Miss Dawn's Room!

November was an exciting month with the anticipation of Thanksgiving! The children enjoyed a lot of math, science, sensory and literacy activities with a fall and turkey theme.

Some of our favorite activities included turkey feather counting, building turkeys with playdough, coffee filter turkeys, lots of fall books and songs!

We discussed all of the things we are grateful for and all of our favorite holiday traditions.

I am sure that the month of December will prove to be even more exciting for the kiddos!

As a reminder we go outside 2 to 3 times a day so mittens get wet so

having a spare pair is very helpful. Please send your child with indoor shoes or sneakers each day so that boots have a chance to dry out in between outside times! Thank you!

I enjoy seeing each of you to touch base about your child's day but if you ever need to talk my email is MissDawnHilltop@gmail.com!

Thank You,

Miss Dawn



Hello again! We have had a busy month of November in Pre-k! We've been learning about shapes, colors, numbers, letters, kindness, sharing, good manners and discussing what and or who we're thankful for.

We completed a project about what our hands are for. The children traced and cut out their handprints. When asked by their teacher to complete the sentence, "hands are for" ... this is what they answered:
Hunter: "being nice".

Vivian: "holding & kissing my baby".

Aria: "sharing, hugging and building sand castles outside".

Ian: "playing with toys and drawing".

Gwen: "being gentle".

Elliot: "pulling out chairs".

Josie: "using things".

Audrey: "not hitting".

Sophie: "feeding babies".

Mason: "sharing".

Johnny: "being gentle".

Ariya: "opening doors".

Brielle: "not hitting".

Jackson: "keep your hands to yourself".

They came up with some great answers!

We've also started a kindness chain that we hope continues to grow and wrap around our entire classroom! The children can add a kindness ring to our chain when they have been caught being kind! It's great motivation that gets the children to focus on how to be more helpful and to be more aware of ways to be kind to one another.

We have enjoyed our visits from Miss Gail, the nutritionist! She helped us learn more about healthy food choices from the different food groups found on the food pyramid! We even were able to taste test different fruits, veggies, cheeses & grains! On her last visit with us we even had a fun story time that included dancing! Thanks again Miss Gail!

We've also had a fun time with our music teacher, Miss Julie & our story time reader, Miss Jewel! The children absolutely love to sing along with Miss Julie & laugh at her silly voices & fun skits! And the children are always excited to see what new books Miss Jewel has brought to share with us! So a big thank you to both of our weekly visitors! It's always great to have you visit our classroom!

We'd also like to say a big thank you to Miss Linda for working so hard to cook us yummy food and to Miss Mary for working so hard to deliver our food buckets! We appreciate you both!

The children have been so busy working on scissor skills, writing skills, identifying letters, numbers,

shapes, colors and most importantly
our working on our kindness skills!
They have created numerous collages,
paintings, drawings & art projects!
We're so excited to do so much more!
December will be a fun month! Stay
tuned!

Until next time,
Miss Kathy and Miss Cassie



November was filled with lots of fun
and learning! We learned about
Autumn leaves, being thankful and
turkeys. In math, we learned all about
numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9. We also
learned about letters T, C, O, and Q.

We learned about the proper
way to hold books and turn pages
when we are reading so that the
books don't get damaged! We also
learned about the different parts of a
book. A book has a front cover, a
back cover, and a spine to hold it
together. Our class also knows what
an author and illustrator does!

In December, we are all going
to get passports and visit different
countries to find out how they
celebrate the holidays in their country.
It is going to be a fun adventure!

Until next time,
Miss Michelle
MissMichelleHilltop@gmail.com
