

## **Hilltown Charter School Events 2011-12**

At HCCPS there is always a lot going on. Most of this material is covered in your handbook, which I hope you will find time to read soon, but this is the schedule of special events for this coming year and I thought it might be convenient for you to have a summary explanation of what it is along with the date. Evening events at Hilltown begin after supper at 6:30 unless otherwise indicated. As always, please stop by or call with any questions, Deirdre

### **Picnic – Sunday. Sept 4**

Everyone is invited to come to the DAR State Forest from 11-3pm to swim and hang out with other Hilltown families. Bring food to share and sand toys. Very informal. Check about weather cancellations on the school website or answering machine.

### **Class meetings:**

Prisms, Blues, Indigos, Sept 12, M

Greens, Yellows, Sept 13, T

Purples, Reds, Oranges, Sept 20

These are meetings where parents get to meet the teachers, find out about the class' plans for the year, ask questions and offer your help. Expertise and willingness are both most welcome in all of the classrooms

**Community Day, Sept 22** (alternate date: 9/29) – a school-wide afternoon at the nearby ball field from group games. Parents are welcome.

**School photos** – During September photographs are taken of students and classes. You will find out in advance which day your child will be photographed and then you'll be able to order prints online. The school receives some of the proceeds from the orders.

### **New Family breakfast – October 4 T. 8:30am**

All first-year parents are invited to join the Coordinators for breakfast at school. We want to hear how it's going and by this time you will probably have new questions for us too.

### **Mini Course 1 – Oct 13 – Nov 3** (sharing at All School 11/4)

These are like electives for the students which happen on 4 consecutive Thursday afternoons. They will receive a sign up form on which they are asked to choose four options and will then be assigned to one of these. Some of the mini-courses will offer presentations at All School on the Friday following the last meeting of the class.

### **Coop Meeting – Oct 20 Th**

An evening meeting for all community members – parents and staff - where we talk about current issues. Topic: Potential new site for HCCPS

## **Il Teatro – Oct 21, F**

Like a talent show for students on their own or with family members, Il Teatro includes performances and demonstrations of things that students do outside of school. We have seen everything from dancing and musical performances to joke telling, yo-yo mastery and the Gettysburg Address. Family acts are welcome.

## **Day of the Dead Celebration – Oct 22 W**

The Prisms share their study in Spanish class of this traditional Mexican holiday with decorations and food. All families are welcome

## **Family Fun Night – Nov. 4 Fri.**

A community evening of either movies or games for families of all ages – still to be decided. Volunteers will be needed!

## **Winter Fair - Dec 3 Sat 10-4pm**

A big festive day at school open to the public, where all of the classes perform, families can make crafts, gifts and wreaths, purchase books, enjoy a terrific lunch and have a great time together. We ask all parents and older students to volunteer in order to make it work. No special skills necessary!

## **Ed Forum – Dec. 8 Th**

These are parent discussions with the Ed Coordinator and teachers about an educational topic of relevance. This first session will be about our math curriculum.

## **6,7,8 Dance - Dec 16 F**

A DJ'd dance for Purples and Prisms students, held at Hilltown in the evening (starts later than 6:30)

## **Winter Solstice Celebration - Dec 23, Wed 11am**

We have a beautiful, secular, mid-winter celebration every year right before vacation to honor the longest night of the year and all of the winter traditions celebrated by our families.

## **Info night for prospective parents – Jan 10, T**

(Lottery Feb 7)

## **Martin Luther King Celebration – Jan 13 Fri**

The shape of this year's celebration is yet to be determined, but we frequently partner with the MLK Charter School in Springfield for this event.

## **Introduction for parents to Hilltown's 6,7,8 Program - Jan 19 Th**

A meeting with parents and teachers to share information about our Purples and Prisms program. Primarily for parents of students in grades 4,5,6.

**Il Teatro –Jan 27, F**

**Mini Course 2 – Jan 26 – Feb 16 (sharing at All School on 2/17)**

This session will have a community service focus. Volunteers and ideas wanted!

**All School Sleepover – Feb 3, Fri**

Just what it sounds like, 100 kids sleeping on the floors of the classrooms with an army of parent volunteers for supervision. Lots of crazy fun.

**Prisms Coffee House March 2, Fri. evening, starts about 6pm**

The Prisms class (grades 7,8) put on dinner and a show for the whole school as a fundraiser for their overnight trip. This is a great time and the younger students love it.

**Mini Course 3 – March 22- April 12 (sharing 4/13)** This one will have a science focus, parents are invited to help.

**Art Spark – March 24, Sat. evening**

This is our big annual gala all-adult fundraising evening, and is a great time to hang with other Hilltown parents. A band, an auction and wonderful food are all featured. It is open to the public and we encourage everyone to bring a friend. Older students often offer babysitting services that night.

**Il Teatro, March 30 , F**

**Science Fair – April 8, Fri**

Parents organize this event which features the independent work of all interested students in the school. More information will come out before the winter break, but you can start thinking about it now.

**Earth Day All School – April 27 – a special focus at the regular All School time: 8:45-9:30 am**

**Grandparents Day – May 4**

Students invite their grandparents or other special adult friends to come and spend an afternoon in their classrooms. The visit is followed by the Music Festival in the evening (see below)

**Music Festival – May 4**

All classes perform on this special evening held at Helen Hills Hills Chapel at Smith College. It is quite an impressive evening, good to bring family members to show off the school.

**Annual Co-op Mtg. – May 16 Wed**

Each year we have an annual meeting where members of the Cooperative (you!) get reports from their board of trustees, vote on new board members and by-law changes and usually discuss topics of relevance. This is an important meeting and we encourage all parents to attend.

**Instrument Concert – May 24 Th**

Our violin, ukelele and guitar students have their own special performance night. All are invited.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Project Presentations – June 5 evening**

Everyone is invited to come and see what our oldest students have accomplished. These presentations are very impressive and inspiring.

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon – June 6 W 12:30**

Parents organize a special appreciation luncheon for the school staff – and we all LOVE it!

**Summer Celebration – June 15 (date tentative)**

A day spent at the Overlook at Northampton, our nursing home partner. Including singing together, a maypole dance, a shared lunch and an afternoon of outdoor games.

**Graduation – June 17 (tentative)**

A very moving evening of transition for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Each graduate is recognized individually by the faculty and make a short speech about their time at Hilltown.

The HCCPS Board of Trustees meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month. Meetings are posted on the calendar in the school entry way and all of them are open meetings. You are invited to attend any time.