

Hilltop News

January 23, 2004, #16

Hilltop Montessori School (802) 257-0500 209 Austine Drive, Brattleboro, VT 05301 www.hilltopmontessori.org

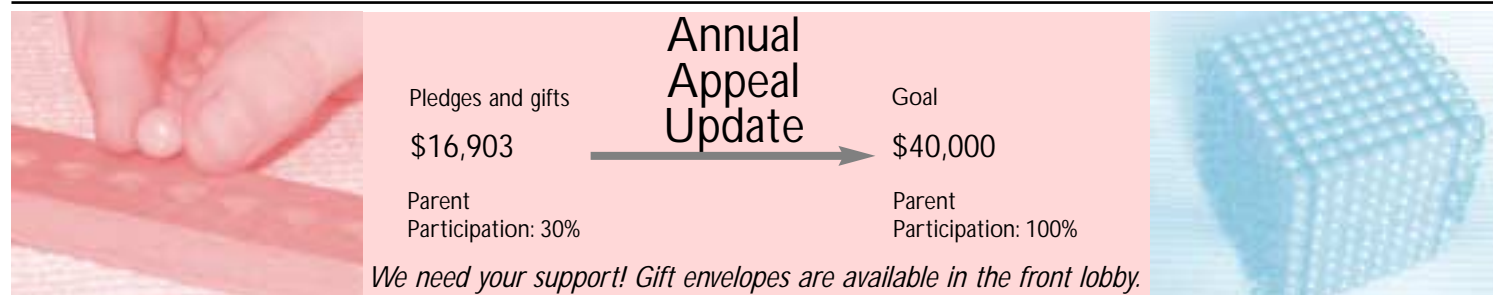
Hilltop's Board of Trustees

On the first Thursday of every month, a small group encompassing a broad spectrum of the Hilltop community gathers to discuss the policies and vision that guide Hilltop Montessori School. This group of parents – current, former, and alumni parents as well as a recent alumna – comprise the school's Board of Trustees and they are entrusted with the governance of the school and the fulfillment of its mission.

Part of every meeting this year has been the ongoing work of updating the Strategic Plan that was accepted in the fall of 2001. The parent meetings in the fall and several staff meetings focused on defining what

we mean by being the best Montessori school we can be and then what will help or hinder us in our quest. The Board's responsibility is to prioritize the dreams of the Hilltop community and align them with the sobering financial reality that we are a school that is primarily tuition driven. It is fortunate that Hilltop has a board that is both positive and pragmatic; it bodes well for the future.

Parents who are curious about how the board operates are welcome to attend meetings (the next one will be February 5 at 6:15) or to call Bette Abrams (254-9730) for more information.



Parents

Bette and Bruce Abrams
Laurie Alberts and Tom O'Neill
Beth Armour and Tucker Barrett
Maria Basescu and Mary Rodriquez
Julie Meltzer and Jonathan Bender
Jeanne and Peter Bennett
Elsa Borrero and Eugene Uman
Debra Drown and Larry Bart
Ellyn and Michael Durante
Gina Faro
Debbie Gassway-Hayward and Peter Hayward
Linda Gordon and W. Bruce Fenn
Karen Guggisberg
Jennifer and Stephen Hed

Mary and Craig Hefner
Christine Holderness
Nancy Johnston & Paul Kidder
Elizabeth McLarney and Gordon Little
Susan and Pat McMahon
Barbara and Mark Mervine
Denise Paasche and Tony Blosfon
Hannah Parker
William and Carol Schroeder
Stephen Schwarzenbach
Bari and Diane Shamas
Elizabeth St. John
Jennifer Sutton and Todd Smith
Margaret Tarmy
Jessica Thomas

Alumni and Parents of Alumni

Ruth Allard and Erik Schickedanz
Mary Lynn and Randy Current
Paul and Susan Dedell
Griff and Mark Goehring
Kathleen Graves and Donald Freeman
Mary and Robert Ingram
Deedee and Marcy Jones
Laura Pratt and Jim Woodberry
Robin Westen and Howard Brofsky
Janet Zinter and Mark Anagnostopulos
Tonia and Whit Wheeler

Staff (parents and parents of alum included elsewhere)
Jessica Turner

Grandparents and Special Friends

Beverly Alberts
Elmer and Mavis Anderson
Glenn and Rose Boynton
Ann Edwards Fragale
Milly and Russ Ellis
Diane Freiburger
Dolly and Denis Glennon
Harold Littledale
Betty Hellman
Judie and Mike Jerald
Mitra Jerald
James and Carolyn Olivier
Margaret O'Neill
Marjorie and Herb Pryves
Garrett Smith
Mr and Mrs Lamont Thomas
Everett Warzecha
Mary Warzecha



Sarah Rowan, '00, giving her speech in the voice of Thurgood Marshall in the US Supreme Court Chambers in 1999 as part of the middle school's study of Civil Rights in 1999.

Do you have a slide scanner?

We have a box of wonderful slides from years past that we would like to digitize. Contact Mark if you can help out by providing a scanner and/or are willing to help out scanning the slides. Thanks!
Mark

CALENDAR

This calendar is available online at www.hilltopmontessori.org

Last updated on 1/7/04
January 2004
Tuesday, January 20
7:00 PM, Primary
Prospective Parent Open House
Snow Date 1/21

Thursday, January 21
Upper El Café Lunch

Thursday, January 22
Winter Sports
Chinese New Year

Monday, January 26
9:00-9:15 AM, All School Gathering-Primary/ Melissa
3:00-5:00 PM, Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 28
9:00-10:00 AM, Primary Mini Classes
7:00 PM, Elementary

Moving Up Night (current and prospective parents)
(snow date January 29)

Thursday, January 29
Winter Sports

February 2004

Sunday, February 1
Monthly tuition payments due
2004-2005 Re-enrollment packet mailed to all parents Feb. 1, due March 1

Monday, February 2
9:00-9:15 AM, All School Gathering – MS
3:00-5:00 PM, Staff Meeting

Thursday, February 5
6:15 PM, Board Meeting
Winter Sports

A multi-sensory, language rich environment Primary Classroom



Picture books: vocabulary, upper & lower case and word...

Alphabet book: felt letters, letter in initial, medial, ending of word — mitten, camel, ram

Rainbow letters: tracing letters, different colors, learning with the hand



Alphabet picture book: visuals of alphabet, vocabulary, letter shapes

Nomenclature book: exposure to vocabulary, sight words, making books, learning parts

Sandpaper letters: children trace the shape of a letter with their index finger. Sensory, kinesthetic experience; muscle memory



Alphabet puzzle, lower case: picture to letter association, initial letter sound

Alphabet puzzle, upper case: alphabet order, match shapes



Moveable alphabet: learn letter names and sounds, blending sounds, building words and sentences without the frustration of writing. See Lower El.

Lower Elementary Classroom



"Miss Odd" from the phonics box: how to learn short vowels.

Cursive writing sample cards



The small moveable alphabet. See Primary.

Easy decodable readers: "The Skunk on the Bus"



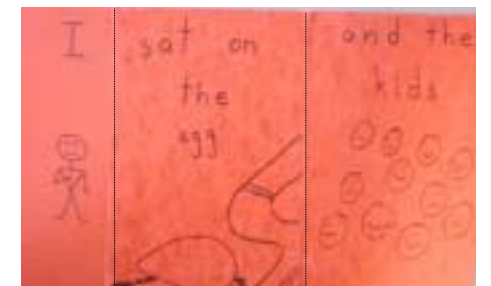
Short and long vowel bingo: does anyone have a word with "i" on their card?



Building patterns: tin, fin, win, sin

Vowel substitution: change mop to map (map)

Phoneme - grapheme correspondence bingo: the sound "v" looks like — v.



Story builders: Cards with parts of sentences for story building and learning complete sentences.

How does a language curriculum that was developed in Italian 75 years ago hold up today against words like "phoneme segmentation" or "consonant clusters" that are common vocabulary in the latest research on reading and spelling instruction?

Dr. Louisa Moats, in her book Speech to Print: Language Essentials for Teachers states that "early alphabetic readers" (ages 5/6; kindergarten/first grade) should know:

- 50 sight words (the, said, does)
- blending and segmenting of three and four sounds orally (m-a-t; m-a-s-k)
- consonant sounds in the beginning of words
- how to spell words using inventive strategies (drk = dark)
- how to attempt to write sentences under pictures
- how to write letters slowly
- how to retell events/stories

I expect that Dr. Moats, an author, teacher, and well-respected researcher in the field of reading and spelling would say "bravo" to the materials and instruction in Hilltop's classrooms. There are a myriad of opportunities for students to practice all the skills listed over the course of their extended-day and first year of lower el – even on these two shelves alone. The combination of the materials, ongoing teacher training, and the structure of a language curriculum that was developed more than 75 years ago provides students with the keys that are necessary to unlock the magic of reading, writing and spelling.

— Tonia