

HMS Grandparents' Day

Welcome, fellow grandparents!

How lucky are we to be here today, sharing this day with grandchildren, being here on this beautiful campus, and honoring Tonia.

I am the parent of long-ago Hilltop alumni, a grandparent, and also, as of last year, a member of the Hilltop Board. I joined the board in part in gratitude for what my children received at Hilltop over 30 years ago – which served them well as they went on to high school, college, and graduate school, and their respective careers.

But 30 years ago, when my daughter joined the very first middle school class, we fondly thought of the school as “Basement Montessori,” as we were located in the basement of Centre Church on Main Street. So – far from a Hilltop, but an exceptional education, nonetheless. My daughter would complain bitterly about Kevin, the taskmaster, making her re-write something, but all of that browbeating made her into a really good writer.

Please permit me just for a few moments to take off my proud mother hat and put on my Board Member hat.

Today we are honoring Tonia and the Wheeler Fund, but it goes without saying, that we also honor the forethought and generosity of so many who have made this campus possible, and for the exceptional educational experiences that Hilltop Montessori is providing these children today.

We appreciate every gift that you as grandparents give to the school. And we fully realize that, as grandparents, you may be helping to make it possible for your grandchildren to be here. After all, what else could be more important, in terms of what we leave behind, than contributing to the intellectual, emotional, and community consciousness of our grandchildren?

One important objective that the school and the Board is always working toward is that of providing opportunities to broaden our student population,

and in order for that to happen, we need to expand our ability to provide financial aid to a greater number of prospective families. Your gifts help us to accomplish that.

Thank you, again, to Tonia, for giving us a model in the Wheeler Fund for supporting a particular project or cause, and thus a legacy that will endure far into the future.