



HILLTOP HUSKIES

May 2020

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Hilltop's May Curbside Pick-Up/Drop-off

All families please plan to stop by school during one of these times.



Please Bring: Any items for your teacher, classroom books and library books.

Ready for Pick Up: There will be a bag ready for each of your children of personal supplies, belongings, any materials to assist with virtual learning and maybe some new books to borrow. Staff members will greet you at the curb, take the materials you have, and give you your children's bag. Our staff will wear masks and gloves. Please also wear a face covering and stay in your car.

Lost and Found: Drive into the North bus parking lot "bus zone" to view lost and found items. If you see something that belongs to your child, you may get out of your car to grab it in this area only.

Monday, May 11
10 am to 2 pm

Tuesday, May 12
2 pm to 6 pm

Wednesday, May 13
8 am to 12 pm

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Read Principal Somoza's May letter for important information!

COUNSELORS' CORNER

Our counselors talk about de-stressing during this time.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Check out the details for this years Staff Appreciation Week! May 4th- May 8th

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATES

See what our kids have been planning.

HELPFUL NEWS

Fun virtual opportunities and ways to help the community, too!

IMPORTANT DATES

Due dates, deadlines, and events.

Thursday May 7th at 7PM

Email HilltopElemPTSA to get the ZOOM link for the virtual meeting.

We'll be discussing 2020-2021 Board Elections!

PTSA Board Meeting



STAY CONNECTED!

Email us at hilltopelemptsa@gmail.com

Like us on facebook [HilltopPTSA](https://www.facebook.com/HilltopPTSA)

Check websites for updates

[Hilltop PTSA](#) [Hilltop Elementary](#)

Hilltop Yearbook Cover Contest

Voting Ends May 3rd!

VOTE HERE!

Will your child be returning to Hilltop next year?

Please fill out [this form](#) for each of your children in K-5th grade. It lets the school know if your child will return next year or if your family is moving. If you would like to be sure the school is aware of any specific needs for your child in regards to class placement, please email [Michelle Howell](mailto:Michelle.Howell) prior to **May 4th**, and she will send you the appropriate form. Parents can share learning styles or needs that help your child thrive, rather than a request for a specific teacher.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

Do you have an incoming Kindergartener? The Edmonds School District has re-opened the registration process. Registration packets can be picked up and dropped at the Edmonds Service Center or Meadowdale High School during specific times. The process can also be completed through email. Options and directions are posted [here](#).



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Student Council hosts a NEW Fun Friday Message from the Hilltop Staff.. Please click [here](#).

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your family are doing well, although I know that each of you have experienced a range of emotions during this school closure and during this public health crisis. It is so challenging when we don't have control over so many factors. At Hilltop, we are trying to take back some control and create some certainty for our staff, our students, and our families. As soon as the Governor announced that schools were going to be closed through the end of the school year, we started clarifying what remote continuous learning looks like and how we can continue to operate as a school community.

It is important to know that the State has determined that we are not to replicate the exact amount of missed teaching during the school closure. Rather, teachers are expected to select a few standards to teach and support students in learning. For the next seven weeks, students are expected to continue learning and engaging in the lessons provided by each classroom teacher. At the elementary level, there will not be report card grades attached to this time period, but the instruction that occurs this spring will be built upon next Fall. So, it is expected that students will participate in the learning activities, and our staff will continue to reach out to find out how we can support your child with their learning. Please communicate with your child's teacher if additional help is needed.

You will see, when you look at the list of events in this newsletter, that we have added a number of community-building events and are trying to virtually continue some of our previously planned activities. Fun Fridays, a virtual Book Fair, yearbook sales, a yearbook cover contest, and a virtual end-of-the year celebration will all help things feel a bit more familiar, and help all our students feel connected to our school community. The Yearbook cover contest voting ends Sunday night and yearbook sales end Wednesday!

Every staff member, including myself, really misses our students and want to help in any way we can. If you have a need, a question or an idea, please send an email. We look forward to seeing you at the curbside pick-up/drop off event on May 11, 12 and 13th.



Warmly,
Melissa Somoza
Principal, Hilltop Elementary
SomozaM341@edmonds.wednet.edu



Counselors' Corner



Hello Hilltop Families!

We hope this finds you all making the best of this very unusual situation. We both miss all of you terribly and think about you each day.

Now that we are in week 7 of Learning from Home and have just passed a full month of living with the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order, we are near certain that each and every family has experienced an increase in family stress levels. Moms and dads are being called on to not only parent, but to referee and to teach, while balancing their own work demands ... all in the context of many people sharing a common space, with almost no time to think by yourself.... How about our kids? Snatched out of their normal routine, which provided both structure and comfort. Not being allowed to see friends and blocked from their group activities which give them exercise and the chance to socialize....PHEW! No wonder we are all feeling stressed and exhausted. Please know that your feelings are completely understandable and you are not alone.

So this month, we wanted to share a few tips on how you and your children can unwind just a bit. These are taken from the article “How You and Your Kids Can De-Stress During Coronavirus” written by Deborah Farmer Kris and found on the [PBS for Kids Website](#).

BREATHE

When we are anxious or upset, our heart rate increases and our breath becomes more shallow. When we take deep breaths, we send a message back to the brain: It’s okay to calm down. Deep breathing resets the central nervous system and helps us respond with a clearer head.

Perhaps try a “breathing buddy:” Lay on your back, put a favorite stuffed animal on your tummy, and watch that animal slowly move up and down as you inhale and exhale. Do this together — it’s playful and helpful for the whole family.

TURN DOWN THE FIRE HOSE

In the moment, stress can feel like taking a firehose to the face: It’s hard to think clearly. Here are four questions we can ask ourselves when we feel our mood dip or our anxiety rise — four questions that help us turn down the HOSE

H: Am I hungry? Try a healthy snack to boost your blood sugar and improve both mood and emotional regulation.

O: Am I overstimulated? We all need downtime to recharge. Take a walk, snuggle up with a good book. Play is also a great way to relieve stress and build connection. Research shows that just being in the presence of a compassionate, safe adult can help kids calm down. As families, we can be “that person” for each other.

S: Do I need to sleep? When we are sleep-deprived, we are less emotionally resilient. Routines help cue our brain that it is time to settle down.

E: Do I need to exercise? Exercise boosts mood and improves focus and cognition. It helps us be responsive instead of reactive. Exercise is a surefire way to make your work more productive. Our bodies and brains work better with regular movement. It’s how humans were built.

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Yes, our routines are being disrupted.

Yes, we are going to need to respond with flexibility and agility.

But let’s not underestimate the bonds that can be strengthened when we face challenges together.



Take good care!

Denise Mullins and Corey Anderson
Your Hilltop Counseling Team

STUDENT COUNCIL

We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you? Check out all that Hilltop Husky Pride from our Pride Day in April! Go Huskies!



Mismatched Day
Friday, May 15th



Wear clothes that do not match!
Mix polka dots, stripes, plaid, or anything else!

Wacky Hair Day
Friday, June 12th



Get your crazy on!
Create a silly masterpiece...
with your hair!

Student Council T-Shirt Return

Attention all Student Council members and families! We would like to collect the Student Council shirts for the year to get them cleaned and ready to loan out again next year. Please return your shirts May 11th-13th during the curbside pick-up/drop-off.

Make sure your NAME is attached to the shirt.

Paperclip your name to the shirt

OR

Put your shirt and name in a bag



VIRTUAL STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

MAY 4 - 8TH

MONDAY – JEDI MASTER DAY

Dress like your favorite staff member or wear your favorite Husky gear! Send pics straight to them or post on the [Hilltop Parents Facebook Group](#) and the PTSA will make a collage and send it to the staff.

TUESDAY – REBEL SALUTE

Celebrate a specialist by doing an specialist activity (PE, Art, Music, etc.). Take a picture of your student doing the activity and send to the specialist or post on the [Hilltop Parents Facebook Group](#) and the PTSA will make a collage and send it to the staff.

WEDNESDAY – WACKY WOOKIE WEDNESDAY

Write a joke, poem or funny note and send it to the staff member and post on the [Hilltop Parents Facebook Group](#) so we can all have a laugh!

THURSDAY – THANKFUL, WE ARE

Complete the 'I am Thankful' form on the next page and send it to your teacher or post on the [Hilltop Parents Facebook Group](#) so we can share the gratefulness!

FRIDAY – Virtual EWOK ARTWALK

Create a work of art for your teacher or staff member! You could draw or paint a picture. Also you can go to Hilltop Elementary over the weekend (May 8th-10th) and decorate the sidewalk with chalk, or put up posters around the school courtyard. Staff will see them during pick-up May 11th-13th. Just remember to stay "socially distant"! You can also have your child make a card or a poster to hang on your vehicle during the pick-up/drop-off event.

Hilltop Staff will be on campus May 11, 12th and 13th for Curbside Materials Pick-Up and Drop-Off. If you would like to pass on an item for a staff member (picture from your child, gift card, etc.) you have that opportunity during that time. Some of you may be interested in showing your appreciation in more personal way so we wanted to remind you that [Staff's "favorite" things](#) are posted online on Hilltop PTSA website.



many
thanks



I couldn't have "picked" a better Yoda!

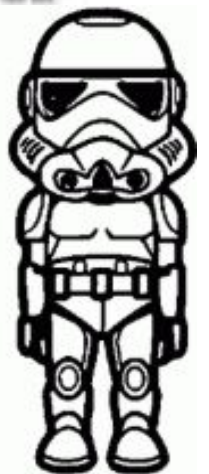
My favorite part of the year was: _____

You helped me learn to: _____

I think you are: _____

I will always remember: _____

Thanks for a great year! Love,



HELPFUL NEWS

READ-A-THON UPDATE



Kinder

Caleb Taylor
Delilah Lockett
Lennon Wise
North Rivera

We raised approx. \$8,000!

Thank you for your generous donations.

Read-a-Thon Prize Winners

1st + 2nd

Aubrey Ellersick
Caleb Paredes
Elvis Lee
Ethan Sloan
Isma Abid
Maddie Kmetz
Violet Mellich
Yuki Hamre

3rd + 4th

Coraline Rivera
Dexter Kmetz
Jillian Brown
Lewis Kalinowski
Owen Rogers
Paloma Rodriguez
Riley Bratsch
Zoie Day

5th + 6th

Aiden Fike
Alex Robles
Betty Alemu
Cooper Mellich
Jinto Kotsuna
Lia Brown
Mika Hamre
Paige McAtee



Prizes will be distributed during Curbside Materials Pick-Up May 11th - 13th.

Earned **Husky Bucks** will be distributed in Fall 2020 to be used at the next in-person book fair.

HOW TO GET MORE BOOKS!!

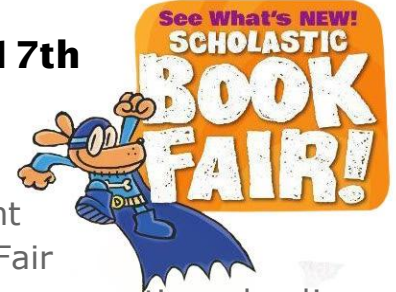


Follow these [directions](#) by 9:00AM on **May 8th** to put Hilltop Library books "on hold". Books will be distributed during Curbside Pick-up May 11th-13th. If you have any questions, email [Mr. Garrard](#).

May 4th-May 17th

Even though our school building is closed, we still want to make the Book Fair available ONLINE for our entire school!

Books will be shipped straight to your home. Click [HERE](#) to start browsing!



WAYS TO HELP

CLEAN UP THE CAMPUS

Individual families are welcome to pull weeds. **No groups please.** Take the weeds home to your compost or yard waste, if you can or leave a little pile, and we will find a way to gather the piles. Mowing and pruning by the school district will resume when allowed. Contact Principal Somoza if you have any questions

GRAB N GO MEALS

Grab N Go sites are set up by Edmonds School District to provide lunches Monday through Friday.

Any child age 1 to 18 can get a free breakfast/lunch at **any** site. Locations for Grab N Go sites can be found [here](#).

If you would like to contribute to student meals consider donating [here](#).



Important Dates



- May 1:** *Fun Friday:* Message to Students [Video](#)
- May 3rd:** Yearbook Cover Voting Ends! Vote [here](#).
- May 4th:** Staff Appreciation Week Begins! 5/4-5/8
- May 4th:** Virtual Book Fair begins! 5/4-5/17. Use this [link](#).
- May 6th:** Last day for yearbook orders. Use this [link](#).
- May 7th:** 7PM: Virtual PTSA Board Meeting. Email [HilltopPTSA](#) for Zoom link.
- May 8:** *Fun Friday:* Staff Appreciation Friday
- May 8th:** 9AM Deadline to request library books for May curbside pick-up using the directions on this [link](#).
- May 11th-13th:** Curbside pick-up/drop-off. More details on Page 1
- May 15:** *Fun Friday:* Mismatch Day hosted by Student Council
- May 21st:** 7PM: Virtual PTSA GENERAL Meeting. 2020-2021 Board Elections
- May 22:** *Fun Friday:* Window Good Wishes
- May 29:** *Fun Friday:* Staff Video hosted by Student Council
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- June 4th:** Virtual PTSA Board Meeting.
- June 5:** *Fun Friday:* Virtual Volunteer "Tea"
- June 12:** *Fun Friday:* Wacky Hair Day hosted by Student Council
- June 19th:** Virtual End-of-Year Assembly/ 6th Grade Celebration. Time TBD
- June 22nd:** Last Day of School
- June TBD:** Multi-day Curbside Pick Up/Drop Off during last week of school: An opportunity to pick-up pre-ordered yearbooks and end-of-the-year student items. Please return library books and classroom books. The district is determining if Chromebooks will be collected at this event.
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- July 1st:** Last Day to Order School Supplies through ["1st Day School Supplies"](#)

Check the school and PTSA websites for current updates



HilltopPTSA.org



[Hilltop Elementary](#)



[HilltopElemPTSA](#)