

HILLTOP HUSKIES

September 2020

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Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

The motto for this year will be "CONNECTIONS"- We know this school year will be different, but we also know that our Hilltop Community is STRONG and RESILIENT and together we will make this an amazing school year. We have loaded this first newsletter with lots of important information and we plan to send out newsletters each month to keep us all connected and engaged.

As we begin the new school year, we have several new staff members joining our hilltop family this year. We will be introducing each of them in more depth in future newsletters, but please help us welcome the following people to Hilltop!

Adrianna Christensen- Kindergarten Teacher
Deborah Fournier- Librarian
Jesslyn Freeman-Correa- 3rd Grade Teacher
Anastaysia Golubovich- Music
Erika Mariotti- Special Education
Sarah Thompson- ELL
Zackary Taylor- PE Teacher

Stay Connected

Email:

HilltopelemPTSA@gmail.com

Website:

www.hilltopptsa.org

Facebook:

[Facebook.com/hilltopPTSA](https://www.facebook.com/hilltopPTSA)

"Hilltop Parents Group":

[facebook.com/groups/hilltopelementaryparents](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hilltopelementaryparents)

Important Dates

First day!!!



September 9th
1-6th grade

September 14th
Kindergarten

Curbside Pick- Up

9/10
Kindergarten
Welcome Event
(noon-3:00pm)

9/10
1st and 2nd Grade
(2:00pm-5:00pm)

9/17
4th and 6th Grade
(2:00pm-5:00pm)

PTSA Meetings

Board Meeting
September 17th
@6:30pm

General Meeting
September 24th
@ 6:30pm

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Hilltop Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2020-21. The summer felt extra long this year! Now that many of the critical decisions about school have been made, we are moving at full speed to get ready for our students. Our staff are so excited to meet their students during the first Zoom Class meeting. We want to learn as much as we can about your children so we can motivate them and meet their needs. Please read all emails from your child's teacher and myself to get a full understanding of what school will look like. We know that you may still have many questions so we encourage you to reach out.

Our staff is committed to guiding families through this new model of learning. We will provide information to families in a number of ways.

- **Hilltop Hints:** For those of you who prefer small bits of just-in-time information.
- **Q&A Documents:** If you want all the information in one place, look on our website.
- **Teacher Emails:** To guide you on items specific to your child's classroom.
- **Family-Connection Meetings:** Teachers will ask your family to sign-up for a virtual conference during the first two weeks of school to answer your questions and to learn more about your child.

Q & A Live Sessions On Zoom:

Weds. 9/9 Hilltop Kindergarten Orientation/ Q&A Session



[Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 97876443044 Password: 652760 6:30-7:30PM

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Continued

Hilltop Hint:

How to get to the First Day of School: Class Morning Meeting

1. Charge Chromebook and turn it on before 9:00AM
2. Sign into Chromebook:
Username = student's email
Password: first four letters of last name + MMDDYYYY (birthdate)
3. Click on Chrome 
4. Select Edmonds Bookmarks from the toolbar  Edmonds Bookmarks
K-2 Students: Click on Clever, then Seesaw, then Zoom link.
3rd-6th Grade Students: Click on Canvas, log on (described above) click on your teacher's course and click on the Zoom button.



Note: If this doesn't work, use any device and find the Zoom meeting code/password sent in your teacher's email. Open an internet browser and go to www.Zoom.us

Hilltop Office: 425-431-7605 We will have extra staff answering the phone on the 1st day
Edmonds School District Tech Support: 425-431-1211 techsupport@edmonds15.org

If you have any worries or wonders about technology, we encourage you to watch the district session on technology for our community members:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wswcb4JwCAc&t=70s>.

Be sure to stop by school and look for the outside display of staff pictures. We are ready to welcome you to your *virtual* school!

All the Best,

Melissa Somoza
Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome Back, Hilltop Families!!

While this is not the way that we all wanted the 2020-21 school year to begin, it is good to be back in touch with all of you. We hope that you enjoyed the summer as much as possible and took advantage of the slower pace and increased family time.

We know that there are many unanswered questions about the year ahead and we are all unsure of what to expect. To ease a bit of the anxiety, we wanted to share with you some excerpts from the article,

[What School Counselors Want Parents To Know This Year](#)

by Abi Berwager Schreier, published in Romper online magazine on Aug. 12, 2020.

It doesn't matter what school looks like for your family this year, whether it's digital, in-person, or some kind of hybrid. What matters is that your children feel safe and loved and protected, according to counselors.

For kids who are doing some form of virtual learning, the most important thing to have is a routine and some sort of predictability. School psychologist Rebecca Branstetter tells Romper, "Routines and predictability are proven to be calming during times of stress. So that means the best thing to do is to provide structure to the days as much as possible. That doesn't mean outlining a strict schedule that perfectly mirrors a school day, but more of defining a new normal for the time being."

Some imperative red flags to look out for in your children who are distance learning include a drastic change in mood and lack of focus. Clardy says to also look out for any kind of behavior that isn't typical of your child, like talking back or refusing to do their work. "If you also see signs that your child has become a worry wart, having temper tantrums or unusual sleep patterns, these could also be indicators of some social-emotional problems," Clardy adds, suggesting that quarantine itself may be to blame for some of these changes, and not just digital learning.

[School Counselor Kelly] West also says that it helps to be aware of your child's ability to focus while learning online. "A child learning at home may become easily distracted with various stimuli — TV on, loud noises, window views — so if at all possible, create a learning station/space designated for learning based on your child's needs."

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Continued

To help combat any negative feelings, Clardy says it's important for kids to be active and to walk outside or "do some type of movement" every single day at the same time. There's that routine again. She adds that children need a lot of breaks when doing online learning. "Every child is traumatized in some way by this new normal."

No matter how your child exhibits their nervousness, it's important to talk to them about it so they feel validated and heard. "Remember that your child is not giving you a hard time, they are having a hard time," Branstetter says. "The number one thing parents can do for their children right now is to 'hold space' for whatever they are feeling."

For kids who aren't necessarily into talking about their feelings, West says to "find a safe activity like walking or asking your child to help with a small task, like folding clothes, to share a bit of your feelings about working from home or any aspect about dealing with COVID." This can help them open up and realize they aren't alone in their feelings.

The most important thing for everyone right now is to always set aside time to talk as a family, Clardy says. "Ask what is going well and not-so-well. We are all in a place of uncharted territory. The more ways we can keep check on a child's social-emotional temperature, the more we can help them work through their feelings about what is going on. Do not be afraid of the tough questions," she says. Children need to be heard and need their feelings validated. Always.

**We welcome your questions and look forward to working with you this year.
Thank you for being advocates for your kiddos!**

**[Denise Mullins](#) and [Corey Anderson](#)
Your Hilltop Counseling Team**

Get Ready to



12th Annual Celebrate Schools VIRTUAL 5K Run/Walk
October 2-4, 2020

 Foundation for Edmonds School District

 Virginia Mason







Don't miss our interactive **Zoom Room**
Saturday, **October 3rd**, 7 - 10 a.m.

Join the pooch and costume parades
Fill your bingo card, win a prize

REGISTER OR DONATE ONLINE

Together, we're helping to build a healthy community where children and families have tools to succeed.

This year brings new challenges and opportunities, and thus our 12th annual 5k will also be our **FIRST** virtual 5k event!

As always, we'll be putting the "fun" in fundraising! Principal Somoza is excited to see what team comes out on top as the #1 fundraisers!

- ❑ Between October 2nd- 4th, runners, walkers, rollers, strollers and waggers can complete their 5K whenever and wherever they choose.
- ❑ All registered participants will be invited to take part in our interactive Zoom Room from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 3rd.
 - Look forward to an appearance by KXA radio host Stitch Mitchell. He'll be back this year as our event emcee, announcing live from the Zoom Room.
 - "Meet up" with other racers and teams.
 - Show off your costume and 5K spirit.
 - Take part in the pooch parade or costume parade. There will be prizes for best human and canine costumes!

School teams keep 100% of pledges and donations. The three ESD school teams with the most registered participants share a portion of event proceeds.

Here's the link to register:

<https://givebutter.com/celebrateschools5k/hilltop-huskies/melissasomoza>



Hilltop PTSA

What is the Hilltop PTSA?

Hilltop Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is a group of advocates for children at the local, state and national levels. Hilltop PTSA runs events and fundraisers that benefit all our children, works with school staff and the district to find ways to bridge gaps between students, staff and families.

Hilltop PTSA is a part of a powerful voice for children, a relevant resources for families, schools and communities, and an advocate for the well-being and education of all children. When you join your local PTSA, you become part of our state association and the larger National PTA. Your voice joins tens of thousands across Washington and millions across the United States as advocates for children.

How can you help?

Join us! And volunteer your time, if you can. Any amount of time helps take the strain off all the other volunteers and parents. A strong PTSA membership makes a BIG difference at our school!

Do members have to volunteer?

No. Members do not have to volunteer. You choose your level of involvement.

What if I want to volunteer?

We would LOVE it if you wanted to volunteer... This year will look very different for our volunteers, but we plan to have lots of opportunities to get involved. If you would like to volunteer, please email us at hilltopelemptsa@gmail.com

Membership Perks

Washington State PTA members can save money through member benefit providers. WSPTA collaborates with businesses and associations that support WSPTA's mission and vision. As part of that relationship, these organizations offer members special discounts. Member benefits are offered to all WSPTA members. Here are just some of the amazing businesses that offer discounts when you join.



PTSA Membership Form



Hilltop Elementary **PTSA**

Council 7.2.55

JOIN THE PTSA PACK

Due to Covid 19, online registration is highly preferred (no service fee!!) Go to <http://hilltoppta.org/Home> or scan the QR code to the right. If you prefer to fill out a form, please complete the information below, place it in an envelope with your child's name and teacher and place it in the box outside the main office of the school.

Questions? email us at: HilltopElemPTSA@gmail.com



2020-2021 Membership

\$10.00 per person

1st Member _____ Email _____

2nd Member _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

All students are honorary members! They can also be voting members for \$10 each. Please list your students name and teacher regardless of membership type

Student's Name	Teacher	Honorary	Voting
Student's Name _____	Teacher _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student's Name _____	Teacher _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student's Name _____	Teacher _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ I'd like to donate \$10 to cover the cost of a teacher membership

Teacher name: _____

(if requested teacher is already a paid member then the donation will be allocated to an unpaid staff member)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PAYMENT TYPE: | Cash | Check (# _____) | Scholarship Amount Requested \$ _____



Thank you for your support!

When you join PTA, you join a community that encourages student achievement and enriches the learning environment. We believe in building partnerships between our families and our schools. Together we can make a difference!

Meet your 2020-2021 PTSA BOARD



Michelle Collins: President

Hi! I'm Michelle Collins. My husband, Russ, and I have 3 kids. Ivy is in 4th grade, Caden is in 1st and Koby is 4 years old. Before staying home, I worked as a microbiologist and still enjoy researching and observing. I joined PTSA to find ways to connect with other families at Hilltop. I've also enjoyed being able to volunteer in the classroom and know that we'll get back there eventually. But for now, I'm excited to find creative ways to engage as a community.



Neil Gavin: Co-Vice President

I have two kiddos at Hilltop- one in Third Grade, and one in Kindergarten. My day job is in corporate finance at Slalom Consulting, and I serve as an adjunct professor at Seattle Pacific University. In my spare time, I love hanging out with my family, and spending time in the mountains, either skiing or hiking. I am also an avid reader with a keen interest in economics, history, and science.

I joined the PTSA board this year to both give back to the community and be an advocate for our students, teachers and parents.



Kaytie Makin: Co-Vice President

Hi, I'm Kaytie Makin. I'm Co-Vice President of Membership. My husband, Nick and I are the proud parents of Zoe, a fourth grader this year. We are originally from Louisiana and we've lived here for 6 years now. We enjoy camping, Mariners games, board games, and Minecraft! I've been a member of the PTSA for 5 years and this is my third year as a member of the Board. This year looks different, but I'm excited to stay involved and make this a great year despite the distance.

Hilltop PTSA

Continued

Meet your 2020-2021 PTSA Board Members and Teacher Representatives:

Nicole Rogers: Co- Vice President



Hi! My name is Nicole Rogers and I am one of the Co-Vice President of Communications. My husband, G.W., and I have two kids at Hilltop. Owen is in 5th grade and Meghan is in 2nd grade. I have always enjoyed being involved in my community and am excited to work with our hilltop community in these unusual times. I currently work in HR (from home) for a global medical device company. Before that, I spent over 10 years working in community outreach for a law enforcement agency managing a large volunteer program. I hope we are able to utilize volunteers in some capacity this year, as I believe they a vital part of our Hilltop community.

Krystle Mcilwaine: Secretary



I have lived in Washington my entire life and am currently an Account Executive for an insurance broker located in downtown Seattle. My husband Todd and I have three kids, 4, 6 and 18. I joined the Hilltop PTSA this year to be more involved in my children's education and community. The PTSA has many great resources and ideas that benefit everyone. I am excited to work with this group and the rest of our Hilltop families.

Emmy Bahr: Treasurer



Hi I'm Emmy Bahr, Hilltop Elem PTSA treasurer. This will be my second year on the PTSA board. My husband, Chuck, and I have two boys at Hilltop. Charlie is in 3rd grade and Tommy is in 1st grade. I like to be involved in the school and the community; you can find me volunteering for many events and in the classroom (hoping that will be allowed soon). I work as an independent Investment Adviser Representative and really love the fact that I can select my schedule to be involved at the school as well as work a full time job.

Hilltop PTSA

Continued

Meet your 2020-2021 PTSA Teacher Representatives:



Matt Grover: 5th Grade Teacher/ Staff Representative

I'm pleased to serve on the PTSA Board to help with communication between this terrific group and the Hilltop staff.



Samantha Kempf: 3rd Grade Teacher/ Staff Representative

Hello! My name is Samantha Kempf. I teach 3rd grade and I am one of the Teacher Liaisons for the PTSA. Not only am I a teacher at Hilltop, but I'm also the parent of a 6th grader at Hilltop. I love being able to work with the PTSA and sharing both my teacher and parent perspectives.

Family Resources

Pandemic EBT available for our families

Contact: Family Support or Dee Moran in Food and Nutrition Services



Pandemic EBT benefits are available to any student qualified for Free and Reduced meal benefits during the March through June 2019-2020 school closure. OSPI extended the dates for families to apply until September 11th for PEBT benefit. There are two ways to apply:

1. Online: www.WashingtonConnection.org (on the application, choose 'Pandemic EBT – Emergency School Meals Program' box in the Food Assistance section); or,
2. Call: 877-501-2233 (DSHS Customer Service Contact Center – interpreter services are available)

If a family already receives EBT benefits their EBT cards should have automatically been loaded with this extra money. More information is available on OSPI's website and also available in other languages. Less than 40% of the qualifying students in Edmonds School District have applied for their pandemic EBT. For questions or families that were denied meal benefits please contact the family support team at familysupport@edmonds.wednet.edu or 425-431-1454.

Grab Go meals available - Comidas para llevar disponible

*Grab n Go meal sites are essential activities for our community and will continue during Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order for all of Washington State.

Grab and Go meals are available - Starting again on September 9th
7 days of FREE breakfast and lunch packaged together.
No paperwork or pre-orders are needed.
Any child can go to any location
Any child 1-18 can get free breakfast/lunch at a site



Please click on the link below for more information and for pick-up locations and times:

[Edmonds School District Food Service](#)

FUNDraisers



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR
THE NEW
LABEL:



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com.

You do not need to clip or send Box Tops labels to school.



BOX TOPS CLIPS ON PACKAGES

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store as packages transition to the new Box Tops labels. You can still clip these and send them to school. Please make sure each clip has a valid expiration date.



BUY
BOX TOPS
PRODUCTS



CUT
OUT THE BOX TOP
FROM EACH PACKAGE



SEND
YOUR BOX TOPS
TO SCHOOL

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE BOX TOPS APP AT BTFE.COM

© General Mills

THE ALL-NEW BOX TOPS IS HERE!
DOWNLOAD THE APP:



Help us earn donations while you shop! It all adds up!

1. Start at www.smile.amazon.com
2. Set your charity to: Hilltop Elementary PTSA
3. It will say we are in Tacoma, as that is where our "parent" PTSA is physically located... it is still our Hilltop!

Spirit Wear



We are excited to try out a new spirit wear option this year! The PTSA is partnering with **1st Place Spiritwear** to handle all your spirit wear needs. There are many options and styles to choose from. They have t-shirts, sweatshirts, tank-tops, clothing just for our special teachers and even masks. You can order at anytime and items are shipped directly to your home.

Visit our page today:

<https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/WA/Lynnwood/Hilltop+Elementary+School>

10% of sales goes
to our PTSA



District Calendar



2020-2021 Family and Community Calendar

Please note: There is also a staff specific version of the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

AUGUST 2020					SEPTEMBER 2020					OCTOBER 2020					NOVEMBER 2020					DECEMBER 2020					JANUARY 2021				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4					1
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30					28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29

Sep 1-3 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/Non-Student)

Sep 7 Labor Day

Sep 8 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/Non-Student)

Sep 9 First Day of School

Sep 23 Early Release (all grades)

Oct 14 Early Release (all grades)

Oct 28 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/Non-Student)

Nov 2-6 Grades K-6 Parent-Teacher
Conferences (Early Release, K-6)

Nov 10 End of First Quarter

Nov 11 Veterans Day (observed)

Nov 18 Early Release (all grades)

Nov 25 No School

Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 9 Early Release (all grades)

Dec 19-Jan 3 Winter Break

Jan 1-3 Winter Break continued

Jan 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan 27 Early Release (all grades)

FEBRUARY 2021					MARCH 2021					APRIL 2021					MAY 2021					JUNE 2021					JULY 2021				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
					29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30

Feb 2 End of First Semester

Feb 3 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/
Non-Student)

Feb 15 Presidents' Day

Feb 16 No School

Feb 24 Early Release (all grades)

Mar 17 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/Non-Student)

Mar 18-19 Grades K-6 Parent-
Teacher Conferences
(Early Release, K-6)

Mar 31 Early Release (all grades)

April 5-9 Spring Break

April 13 End of Third Quarter

April 14 Early Release (all grades)

May 5 Early Release (all grades)

May 19 Professional Development Day
(Teacher Contract/Non-Student)

May 31 Memorial Day

June 9 Early Release (all grades)

June 24 Last Day of School,
Early Release (all grades),
End of Second Semester

Jul 5 Independence Day (observed)

LEGEND



First Day of School



Early Release (all grades)



Early Release (K-6)



Non-Student Day



Holiday No School



End of Term



Last Day of School (Early Release)

Snow make-up days:

No snow make-up days while we are in Remote Learning.