



December 18, 2024
Issue #24



*"December is a month of lights, snow, coziness, and feasts;
time to make amends and tie up loose ends;
finish what you started and make your wishes come true."*

Season's Greetings from the Hill!

The quotation above sums up the month and all that we attempt to do as one year closes and another begins. Here at HTPS, we are ending 2024 on a high. It's been a wonderful year with lots of growth. While we celebrate these achievements, we also know that our work is not yet done. We have a sense of renewed hope and anticipation for the potential and opportunity that await us just around the corner.

A special thank you to all who responded to last month's Wish List in HawkTalk. Many of you heard our faculty and staff wishes and were very gracious, buying much needed items. Some have asked if they can still help out. Yes, there are still a few items left –here is the link: [LINK](#).

Lastly, we put together a fun little cartoon video. We hope you enjoy it. It highlights some of the simple joys of the season – sharing cocoa with friends, singing carols, making angels in the snow, and of course building a snowman. The video even has a visit from our HTPS Hawk. One of my wishes for you is that you get to relax, spend time with friends and family, and enjoy all that this holiday season has to offer.

See you in 2025!



Kevin M.R. Mayne
Head of School

Wishes Fulfilled!



Your thoughtful contributions through our Amazon Wish List are making an immediate impact on our students' daily educational experiences and providing invaluable support to our dedicated teachers. Please see just a small snapshot here.

As a small school, we pride ourselves on stretching every dollar to create meaningful opportunities, but the items you donate allow us to go even further. These small yet powerful gifts enhance classroom experiences and bring joy to both our students and staff.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and the role you play in helping our students thrive. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Amazon Wish List

If you didn't get a chance to purchase an item from our Amazon Wish List, there's still time to make an impact!

Giving Tuesday Recap

Thank you for making a difference on the

Hill. This year, we raised over \$14,000!

Your generosity inspires everything we do at Hill Top Preparatory School. Because of supporters like you, we are able to provide innovative academic programs, personalized support services, and life-changing opportunities for neurodiverse students.

GIVING TUESDAY

At Hill Top, we celebrate differences, nurture unique strengths, and equip our students with the skills they need to navigate the world with confidence. Your belief in their potential fuels our mission to empower every learner to thrive authentically and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

Check out some of the amazing things happening here on The Hill, made possible by contributions from Giving Tuesday!

See Your Dollars in Action!



Missed Giving Tuesday? There's still an opportunity to make a difference! Support Hill Top's Annual Fund by making your donation before the year ends. Every contribution helps us continue to empower and uplift our neurodiverse students.

Support the Annual Fund

Classroom & Club Fun!



In Ms. Clarke's "Puzzles, Puzzles, Puzzles!" club, students have been having a fantastic time exploring and solving puzzles! Check out this action shot of Peyton.

Mrs. Stretch's 7th grade class had a fun day of Harry Potter, butter beer, and magic!



Ms. Stretch's 8th-grade students hard at work in the middle school lab!

Employability & Transition Dress Drive

Our E/T 2 students are hard at work on this incredible annual project! From designing flyers to managing pickups, sorting donations, and even repairing dresses, they're handling it all. They're collecting new or gently used prom dresses to sell this spring for just \$10–\$20, with all proceeds benefiting the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Have a dress to donate?

Email kphillips@hilltopprep.org or DM us to coordinate drop-off. Pickups can also be arranged.

A promotional poster for Hill Top Prep's Dress Drive. It features a red dress hanging on a hanger against a dark background with stars and a rainbow. The text includes the school's name, the event title, donation instructions, dates, location, and the beneficiary, the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Hill Top Prep's
DRESS DRIVE

How to Donate:
Drop off or email
kphillips@hilltopprep.org
for pick-up

When to Donate:
Nov 1 through Feb 1

Where to Donate:
737 S. Ithan Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Benefitting:
American Red Cross
Southeastern Pennsylvania

Thank you for supporting this amazing student-led initiative!

Employability & Transition I Holiday Pop-Up Shop

Our E/T I students recently showcased their skills during the annual holiday pop-up shop, an event filled with valuable hands-on learning opportunities. Open for two days during community meeting/break and lunch, the shop provided students with a chance to apply real-world skills in a practical setting.

Students rotated through "shifts," taking on roles such as assisting customers in finding the perfect gift, packing orders, and managing the checkout process. Through this experience, they demonstrated and refined essential skills like customer service, money management, budgeting, and understanding supply and demand.

From the initial planning stages and crafting of the items to the setup, operation, and takedown of the shop, students took charge of every aspect. The debrief that followed gave them an opportunity to reflect on what they learned and identify areas for growth.

This hands-on project not only helped students apply classroom knowledge in a meaningful way but also provided a chance for our community to shop for holiday gifts while supporting student learning.



Field Trip Fun!

This month, our middle school students embarked on two exciting field trips! The 8th grade explored the fascinating exhibits at the American Treasure Museum in Oaks, PA, while the 6th grade enjoyed an educational day at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Check out some snapshots from their adventures and see the fun and learning in action!



Literary Magazine Debut

Congratulations to Ms. Jimenez and student Jon B. for crafting the first issue of the Hill Top Literary Magazine. This issue contains submissions of short stories, poems, and artwork from the HTPS community.

This new staple to the Hill Top community will be issued several times throughout the year. If you are interested in having your submission included, please email ajimenez@hilltopprep.org for more information!

**Read the Literary Magazine
HERE**



Toy Drive for CHOP - THANK YOU!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we collected over 120 toys for the children at CHOP! Combined with additional donations, Matt gathered more than 1,100 toys and \$350 in gift cards to brighten the holiday season for CHOP families.

When Matt stopped by to pick up the toys, he was overwhelmed by your kindness. He shared, "I just want to thank everyone at Hill Top for opening their hearts this season and donating to the kids at CHOP. I know firsthand how much these gifts mean to not only the kids but the parents as well. Thank you again so much!"

Matt delivered the toys to CHOP, where they were met with heartfelt gratitude. To see photos of the drop-off, click the "Matt's Facebook Page" button below.

Thank you for making this holiday season so special!

[Matt's Facebook Page](#)





Level Up Lives: Game, Learn, and Empower Neurodiverse Youth

Save the Date:
March 29, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Attend

Tickets Are Now FREE!

This year, everyone can attend HawXpo at no cost!

Grab your family and friends and get ready for a day of gaming.

Don't wait! Tickets are free, but registration is required.

Compete

Whether you're a seasoned gamer or just starting out, this is your chance to shine. The Esports tournament at HawXpo is open to all skill levels—and it's completely FREE to participate!

Act fast! Spots are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sponsor

This exciting, free event is made possible by the generosity of our corporate sponsors. Their support doesn't just bring HawXpo to life—it helps fuel Hill Top's mission year-round through impactful philanthropic contributions.

Click the button to let us know you are interested in making an impact.

Percie's Path: Student & Alumni Vendors

Reserve Student/Alumni Vendor Table

Are you a current student or alumnus with creations to showcase and sell?
HawXpo is the perfect opportunity to share your talent!
We're now accepting reservations for student and alumni vendors.

Vendor tables are completely FREE, but space is limited,
so be sure to reserve yours today.

Have questions? Email Ms. Gushka at kgushka@hilltopprep.org or stop by her office
(LM 2) during mentor or lunch periods.

Don't wait—sign-ups close on March 3, 2025!

Hill Top Parents' Association Wants YOU!



Are you a new parent to Hill Top? Maybe your schedule freed up? Do you only have a couple hours a month to volunteer? In any situation, The Hill Top Parent Association (HTPA) wants you!

The HTPA helps with school events, fundraising, and much more! You can be as involved as your schedule permits. Volunteer opportunities range from planning fundraisers, to being an Open House greeter, to helping us with gardening and painting around campus.

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please email parentsassociation@hilltopprep.org.

**Join the HTPS Parent Facebook
Group!**

*Did you know Hill Top has launched
the Neurodiversity Success Center to
provide even more support for our*



Neurodiversity Success Center

at Hill Top Preparatory School

community?

While our students benefit from Social-Emotional Learning (PEERS®), Executive Function Coaching, and College Advising during the school day, the NSC offers additional, personalized services for those who may need extra

help.

The best part? The NSC is open to neurodiverse adolescents, young adults, and adults throughout the Main Line and greater Philadelphia area—even those who aren't Hill Top students.

Current Hill Top students receive a 25% discount!

To learn more or to enroll, contact Mia Henry, Coordinator of the Neurodiversity Success Center, at mhenry@hilltopprep.org or visit www.hilltopprep.org/nsc.



The NSC was recently highlighted for their work during the Philly Friendship Walk! Be sure to check it out and learn more about the Center!

Learn About NSC

Request More Information



- January 6th - Classes Resume
- January 7th - 8th Grade "Jazz for Freedom"
- January 8th - HTPA Meeting
- January 11th - HTPA Winter Adult-Only Social
- January 15th - Admissions Open House
- January 17th - IN SERVICE; NO SCHOOL
- January 20th - HOLIDAY; NO SCHOOL; OFFICES CLOSED

- January 22nd - 8th Grade Trip to Kimmel Center
- January 31st - Ski Trip & Fun Friday

**Full Event
Calendar**

Alumni Corner

Each month, Ms. Lesser organizes fun outings for our young alumni to enjoy, including visits to local museums, parks, and events. This month's event is a festive holiday concert! Be sure to check back for the next Hawk Talk for a recap!

Don't forget to update your contact information to stay informed about all the upcoming alumni opportunities!



**Alumni - Update Contact
Information**

**Review us on
Facebook**

**Review us on
Google**

**Review us on
Niche.com**

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE
CONNECTED**

Did you miss a past Hawk Talk issue? Find previous issues [here](#).



HILL TOP
Preparatory School

Serving Neurodiverse Students Grades 5 - 12

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