

HAWK TALK

THE HILL TOP PREP NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2024
Issue #17



"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." — Charles Dickens

Greetings from The Hill,

The above quotation aptly fits the March days we have all been experiencing here on The Hill. Mornings have started out cold (and dark with the time change) but by mid-day it is sunny and quite warm. In between, we've had periods of heavy rain and incredibly high winds. Despite this crazy weather, our campus is waking up from winter and spring flowers are popping up all over.

With warmer weather also comes a myriad of activities both inside and out. As you'll see in this month's Hawk Talk, our faculty and students have been busy. There were field trips (7th grade to Millersville University and 11th and 12th grade to New York City),

celebrations of Black History and Women's History Month, classes held in our outdoor classrooms, spring sports, the Annual E/T Dress Sale, a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new Brenneman Fitness Center, completion of our Solarium Blue Room, the Philadelphia Flower Show (and our students winning 1st place in their division), and of course our annual Pi Day activities. As you can see from the photo, I got 'pied' and it was fun - and tasty! Isn't our community amazing?

With April just around the corner, we have more activities awaiting us. Have you signed up for HawXpo? How about our summer program? Did you hear about the Fashion Show? Be sure to read all about them in this issue.

Also, do you enjoy reading Hawk Talk? We put a lot of time, effort, and creativity into providing ongoing communication to our community and this is one vehicle that we use to do so. Is it effective? What else do you want to know about? I want to hear from you - please email me your thoughts at kmayne@hilltopprep.org.

Best,

Kevin M.R. Mayne
Head of School

Classroom FUN!

Hill Top teachers are some of the best around! Highlighted in this edition of Hawk Talk are some of the hands-on learning activities that they use to best help our students learn.

Momentum

Mr. Riley's class has been studying momentum and its effects! Students studied this concept with a hands-on activity of spinning in a chair with books! As observed, if they tucked the books in closer, the faster they spin. How neat is science?!



7th Grade Field Trip

Our 7th grade class took a field trip to Millersville University last week to start exploring the college search process.

While there, they also checked



out the Lancaster Central Market, did a scavenger hunt on Millersville's campus, and even enjoyed cheeseburgers for lunch...YUM!

HawXpo: April 13th!



Have you registered your child your HawXpo?!?

Hill Top Students are FREE, but still need to register at link with code "STUDENT"!!

Hill Top Families are 50% off with code "HTPS2024"!!



Volunteer @ HawXpo

We need YOUR help to make this year's event a success!

To have a successful event for our students and community, we

HawXpo Tickets on sale!

Come join us for a memorable day of gaming, comics, educational programming, and family fun, all right here on The Hill. It's a fantastic opportunity for

are reaching out to you - the supporters of Hill Top - to help make this year's event a success!

Volunteers are needed!

Whether you can give an hour or the whole day, we need your support! Please complete the registration form below or email juliaott@hilltopprep.org to volunteer.

adolescents and young adults to explore their interests, enhance their social skills, and connect with others who share similar passions.

Registration is **OPEN NOW**, with proceeds benefiting the Student Enrichment Fund at HTPS!

**Current Hill Top Prep students can use promo code STUDENT for free admission. Families of current Hill Top Prep students can use promo code HTPS2024 to receive 50% off their household's additional tickets.*

**Volunteer @
HawXpo!**

**Get HawXpo tickets
here**



Join the Esports Tournament

Looking for a little friendly competition? Join the Esports Tournament!

For more information, please contact Harvey Scribner at hscribner@hilltopprep.org

**Esports Tournament
Registration!**

Black History Film Festival

Recently, the Upper School and the DEI committee hosted a film festival that featured Black creators, actors, and stories. Before starting the film, students were asked to review the definition of the American Dream and ask questions about their thoughts surrounding it. Students then split into groups to watch various movies. After the movies, the groups reconvened and discussed if the films changed their views on their



previously held thoughts on the American Dream. Overall, the event was a success, and students enjoyed themselves.



PA State Tax Credit Program

What if you could choose what your tax dollars fund?

In Pennsylvania, you can!



Pennsylvania

WORK SMART. LIVE HAPPY.

Did you pay \$3,500 or more in PA state taxes last year? Did you know that you could redirect up to 90% of that payment directly to Hill Top to help support our students?

Reach out to Julia Ott at juliaott@hilltopprep.org to learn how easy it is to support Hill Top students!

Learn More about EITC/OTSC Donations

Middle School Kindness Week

The Middle School had a 'Kindness Week' this past month. For one week, everyday, students focused on what kind acts or words they

can use. Each day also had a fun theme to go along with it! Listed below are the themes for each day:

Monday: "Hats off to Kindness Day" - students wore a hat!

Tuesday: "BeYOUUnique" students wore wacky clothing.

Wednesday: "We're all more comfortable when we're kind" - students wore pajamas or sweatpants.

Thursday: "We're fans of being kind!" - students wore clothes representing their favorite fandom or sports teams.

Friday: "Kindness has many colors, and together we're a rainbow" - students wore shades of the rainbow according to their grade.





Pi Day! ☐

They say it's "All in the pursuit of knowledge"...right??



After a morning of lessons on the famous 3.14159265358(...) students were entered into a raffle to "Pie the Teacher"! Several of our courageous faculty members, including our Head of School, embraced the pie-in-the-face challenge, all in the spirit of celebrating math and having fun!



**E/T2 Annual
Dress Sale is a
Success!**



The E/T 2 class completed their annual dress sale. Over 400 dresses were for sale and E/T sold over 100 of them! With the amount of dresses sold, we were able to donate \$2,000 to Philabundance.

Congratulations on a successful sale, E/T!

Volunteers Needed

Spring is here and with it unfortunately... lots of weeds in our flower beds. Do you like the outdoors and have some free time? We are looking for some volunteers to help us get a head-start on our campus gardens.



Spring is also a time for refreshing things up.

While we've done lots of painting on campus, we still have areas and rooms that need a little paint touch-up.

If you have time to donate and would like to help in the garden or painting, please let us know by emailing kmayne@hilltopprep.org.

April Parent Webinar - Final One



**Sign Up for Parent
Webinar**

As a reminder, HTPS has signed up for a year-long Parent Education Series. Offered by ADVIS and The Independent Schools Association of the Central States, these webinars cover a variety of useful topics. **The FINAL session will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024**, and is titled Raising Resilient Children.



Hill Top Parents' Association Wants YOU!



Are you a new parent at Hill Top? Maybe your schedule has freed up? Do you have a couple hours a month to volunteer? 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 time permits. Volunteer opportunities range from planning fundraisers to being an Open House greeter to helping 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!

Asa In Hyuk Brenneman '14 Fitness Center Opening

On March 22nd, The Asa In Hyuk Brenneman '14 Fitness Center officially opened its doors, with many family and friends in attendance. After remarks by both Mr. Mayne and Steve Brenneman, Asa's father, a ribbon was cut and the center



doors opened. It was a lovely event where cherished memories of Asa and his lasting impact were shared by all.

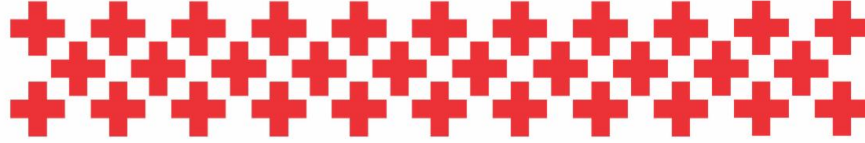
NHS Blood Drive Wednesday April 10th

Hill Top Preparatory School's chapter of the NHS and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive on April 10th.

Please join us and schedule an appointment today!

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Hill Top Preparatory School
National Honor Society

Gym
737 S Ithan Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: HillTop to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions
on the day of your appointment.



**Make an impact: Come give blood 4/8 to 4/28 for a \$10
gift card by email to a merchant of choice!**



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Save the Date: Fashion Show



"A Night in the 50s" Fashion Show is coming to the Hill!

Date: April 27th

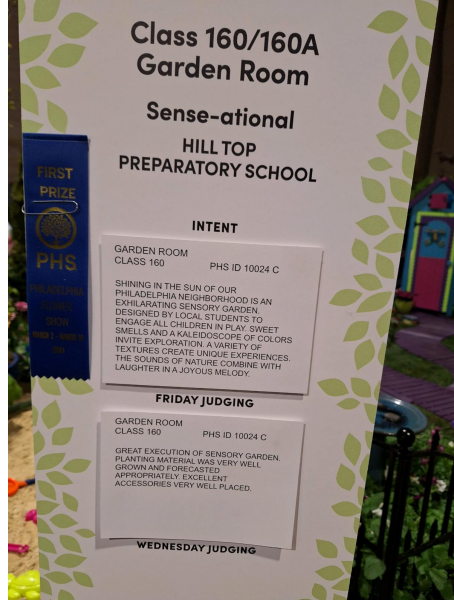
Time: 7pm

Location: Bates-Bristol Hall

More information on
the event and ticket sales will be
coming soon!

Philadelphia Flower Show: A Blue Ribbon Win!

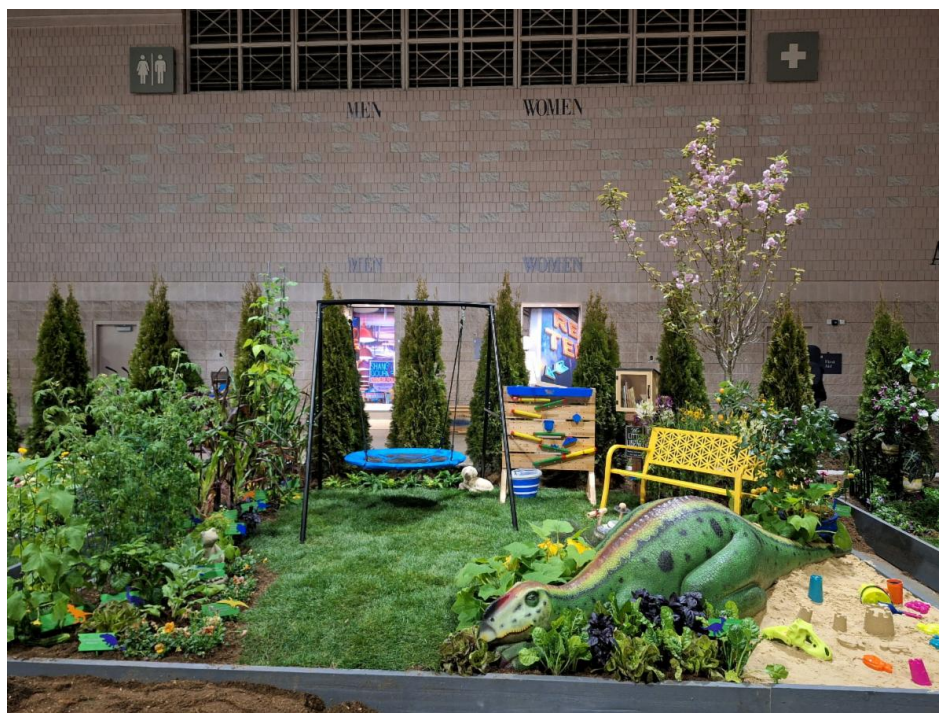
Hill Top's Horticulture class won
first prize in their division from



this year's flower show.

Their exhibit, '*Sense'-ational Garden*, was a sensory inclusive experience for all! The judges commended their fun accessories and well-grown plants.

If you did not get to see the completed garden in person, check out this picture below. Our students and Ms. Stretch did a fantastic job; congrats to all!



Summer Camp - Register TODAY!



Believe it or not, summer will still be here. Our summer program is already starting to fill up. Our camps, which run from June 24–August 2, 2024, are for grades 2–PG. This year's offerings include:

- **NEW! Social Skills Bootcamp**
- Summer Adventures
- eSports & Technology
- Pathways to Independence (P2I)

All camps are a mixture of neurodiverse and neurotypical children, which allows for great opportunities for our students



to enhance their social skills and learn behavioral modeling while meeting students from other areas of the region.

If you have any questions, or would like to register, please reach out to Brittany Weiderhold, Director of Summer Programs, at bweiderhold@hilltopprep.org.

**Learn more about our
Summer Camps!**



Neurodiversity Success Center (NSC) - Sign Up TODAY!



**Neurodiversity
Success Center**
at Hill Top Preparatory School

Do you know someone who struggles to make and keep friends and is unsure where to meet them? Maybe they have difficulty understanding if someone is laughing with or at them? Do they have difficulty staying on task and challenges with self-motivation? Will they

be applying to college but have no idea where to begin?

The Neurodiversity Success Center (NSC) is the road to success for students and adults who learn differently! The NSC offers programming in PEERS[®] social pragmatic intervention, Executive Function Coaching and college advising. Our staff will work 1:1 or in small groups to help develop and strengthen the skills needed to close the door to struggles and open the door to success and happiness.



PEERS[®] groups for teens and adults are forming. Contact Mia Henry at mhenry@hilltoppprep.org for more information, or visit www.hilltoppprep.org/nsc.

**Learn About
NSC**

**Request More
Information**

Medical Tax Benefit



It's tax time!

Did you know that the cost to attend Hill Top may be deductible as a medical expense on your federal income tax return? This can provide a significant benefit to families which can help offset the cost of attending Hill Top. Please consult with your tax professional for additional information.

Pencil Cases for Panama

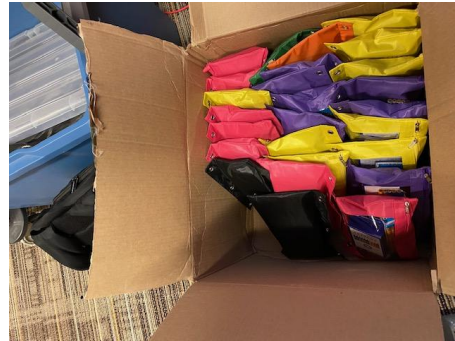
In January, our E/T1 students created 288 pencil cases packed with 1,700+ school essentials.

Through the project, they learned about assembly lines, environmental awareness, and

teamwork.

The impact reached Cerra Coma, Panama, 4,400 miles away, sparking the joy of learning as the cases went into backpacks.

Our students were thrilled to see the smiles of those receiving new backpacks and school supplies.



Panamanian students posing with their pencil cases assembled by Hill Top E/T students!



A busy month is ahead! Please refer to the school calendar for all event details and/or changes.

- April 1st: **Spring Break - NO SCHOOL**
- April 10th: **End of 3rd marking period**
- April 10th: **Blood Drive**

- April 11th: **Parent's Association Meeting**
- April 12th: **Fun Friday - Dave and Busters**
- April 13th: **HAWXPO**
- April 17th: **Admissions Open House**
- April 19th: **Headmaster's Holiday - NO SCHOOL**
- April 23rd: **Graduation Projects Due**
- April 27th: **Fashion Show in Bates-Bristol Hall**
- April 30th: **Graduation Project Presentations**

Full Event Calendar

Saturday Student Spotlights

Are you or do you know a Hill Top student who is doing some incredible things? Want to show off all their hard work? Look no further! This year, our Strategic Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Ms. Gushka, is looking for student spotlights to share with the Hill Top community and beyond. When she came to Hill Top in August, she was amazed by all that the students accomplished and wanted to create a way to spotlight them; hence, our Saturday Student Spotlights were born!

If you know a student who deserves to be spotlighted, please email kgushka@hilltopprep.org with a photo of the student participating in the event, a brief description, and any links to newspaper articles, videos, etc.



Alumni Corner

Each month, Hill Top math teacher Jill Lesser organizes a fun outing to a local museum, amusement park, event, etc. for our young alumni to enjoy together. If you have an idea for next month, please let her know by emailing her at jlesser@hilltopprep.org.

Remember to update your contact information to stay in touch and learn about all the exciting alumni opportunities!



Alumni - Update Contact
Information

Who is that on The Hill?!

Check out this unidentified photo we found in the archives! This alum was quite the artist!

Do you see yourself or any other alums you know in the photo?



Dorm Update

Greetings from the Straff House Dorm!

In the past few weeks, we celebrated our winter sports participants, spent extra time in the gym, grilled on the back patio, and went to our local rock climbing gym.

Alex and Juan were honored for their accomplishments on the basketball team at the all-school ceremony. Congrats to both on a great season!



Next, the dorm residents got up and moving in our NEW on-campus Brenneman Fitness Center! They all enjoyed getting to be the first of the students to utilize the fresh space and modern equipment.

Continuing the theme of physical activity, the dorm continued their exploration at a local rock climbing gym where they were excited to try something new! There was a lot of teamwork and encouragement throughout the night to help each other climb as high as they could.

After all this activity, the dorm was hungry, so we had our first grill night! Juan manned the grill for our ribs, peppers, and sausage.

It was a huge hit!





Referral Program

Do you love Hill Top and want to tell others about our wonderful school? We now have a *Referral Program*. If you refer a student or family member to Hill Top and that student ends up being accepted and enrolls, you will then receive a \$250 scholarship that can be used for Fun Friday Events! To refer someone, please go to www.hilltopprep.org/referral.



April Open House

Mark your calendars for the next Open House on April 17, 2024!

Hill Top Prep Open House

March 20th
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Come see what
Hill Top Prep
can do for your
neurodiverse
student!

737 S. Ithan Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010



HILL TOP
Preparatory School

Co-ed Day School for Grades 5-12
Horizons Post-Grad Program
Boys Boarding Program



Open House Information

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**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

Co-ed Day School for Grades 5-12
Horizons Post-Grad Program
Boys Boarding Program

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