

HAWK TALK

THE HILL TOP PREP NEWSLETTER

May 31, 2024
Issue #19



"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." - Dr. Seuss

Greetings from The Hill,

The above quotation from children's author and cartoonist, Dr. Seuss, really captures the frenzy of a school year – especially here at Hill Top. We often get so caught up in day-to-day events, particularly end of school year activities, that we often forget to savor the moment. Then, in a blink of an eye, the school year has come to an end. As you'll see from all the wonderful happenings on campus during May, as well as those planned for June, life here on The Hill has been busy. Our faculty, staff, and students have accomplished so many wonderful things this month - from visiting artists, trips, House Band & vocal performances, graduation projects and presentations, unique hands-on classes, and so much more.

Hill Top truly is a magical place, where growth happens daily. As we get into the homestretch before graduation, I invite us all to pause, take a breath, and reflect on what an amazing year it has been.

Gratefully yours,

Kevin M.R. Mayne
Head of School

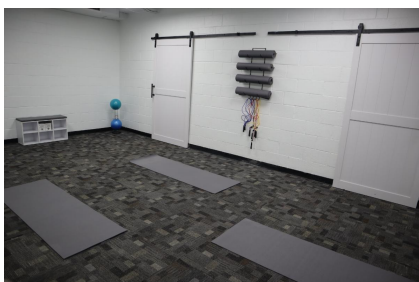
Investing in HTPS

It has been a very 'philanthropic' spring for Hill Top. The school has been fortunate to recently receive several major gifts. Last week, an anonymous donor made a significant and transformative donation to Hill Top. The donation of \$750,000 is the largest single donation in the school's history. It has been designated towards the expansion of Fisher Hall (high school). How should the new second floor be configured and used? Making it multi-purpose and perhaps open would provide us with the most flexibility as we strategically plan HT's future. We will be very thoughtful in how we approach this venture. This will involve forming a special project committee, gathering information, talking with our faculty, staff, parents, students and more, speaking with architects, touring other schools for ideas, and ensuring that what we do aligns with our mission and best serves our students.

In addition to this large gift, the school has also received major gifts for:

- Wellness Center - a donation from the Hamilton Family Foundation has enabled us to create a Wellness Center in the Gym. The lower level under the new Brenneman Fitness Center now has a designated Wellness Classroom, a new Yoga/Mindfulness Room, and renovated restrooms.
- Mindfulness Program - alumnus, Haynes Young '99, has donated funds for the creation of a Mindfulness Program to be implemented as part of our SEL programming.
- Golf Simulator - families and staff have donated a beautiful Golf Simulator that will enable our golf team and gym classes to enhance their skills.
- Barrier/Fencing - a friend of the school has made donations to replace both the aging gym stage barrier and fencing on campus. These new structures will be both functional and more aesthetically appealing.

We are very grateful to our donors who continue to invest in Hill Top!



In the Classroom & Beyond

Although the end of the school year is quickly approaching, our students are still working hard in and out of the classroom. Check out all the fun and educational activities they've been up to!

Roman Shields

Led by Mr. Cohen, our middle school students explored ancient Rome by creating their own Roman shields, merging art with history. Through this hands-on project, they learned about Roman military and cultural significance while expressing their creativity and teamwork. It was a great way to engage with history, making it tangible and exciting.



Flower Dissection

Students in Ms. Weiderhold's Life Science class delved into the natural world by dissecting flowers (found right on Hill Top's campus) to help study and learn a complex botanical lesson. Through this detailed project, they discovered the intricacies of plant anatomy and the functions of each part while honing their observational skills. It was an excellent way to bring Hill Top's beautiful campus inside the classroom!

SEL Cars

A Social Emotional Learning (SEL) class harnessed their creativity and teamwork by building and racing model cars. This project, suggested by student Teddy Locke, helped them develop crucial skills like collaboration, problem-solving, and perseverance. It was an effective way to bring social and emotional learning to life.



Golf Simulator in PE



Mr. Smallwood's Physical Education class hit the 'links' and worked on their birdie shot in PE! Through the sport of golf, students can improve focus, concentration, and social skills while gaining a sense of achievement and confidence.

Washington D.C.

Our 10th-grade students recently took an educational trip to Washington D.C. During the visit, they explored several museums, including the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibits and stories profoundly impacted the students, providing a firsthand understanding of the historical atrocities they've been discussing in class. This experience deepened their connection to the subject matter in a meaningful way.



After visiting the museums, the students enjoyed lunch on the National Mall.



Book Tasting

Ms. Jimenez transformed her classroom into a literary café! Students indulged in a book tasting experience, savoring the flavors of different genres and stories. From front covers to first pages, they sampled 5-6 books, filling out their own menus with intriguing descriptions.

NXTLVL Olympiad

Our middle school team did spectacular in the NXTLVL Olympiad (a power-skill based problem-solving competition). They competed against 17 other teams from all around the world! In the end, the

Hill Top Hawks took home
3rd Place! Congrats to all!



Announcing Thrill on the Hill 2024



On October 5th, we'll host our 13th Annual Thrill on the Hill 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run!

The course is a true test of courage and perseverance as it takes participants down Hill Top's driveway, through the rolling and winding streets of the adjacent neighborhoods and finally back up the lung-busting driveway to campus and the finish line.

We hope you will join us for what has become an incredible tradition at Hill Top Prep!

If you are interested in sponsoring this year's event, please click the button below to email our Director of Advancement, Julia Ott.



[Learn
More](#)

[Register
Today](#)

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Delco Gives Day Success

*Thank
you!*



We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions during Delco Gives Day. Your support has been instrumental in raising **over \$5,000** for the Student Enrichment Fund.

We're thrilled with the response from Delco Gives Day and are excited to wrap up the school

year on such a positive note.

For updates on how your generosity is making a difference on the Hill, check out the 'Philanthropy in Action' page, which we will be updating regularly.

Thank you once again for your support!

Philanthropy in Action

J.R. Porter Fund Visiting Artist



While many schools are cutting back on the Arts programs, Hill Top is expanding theirs thanks to the J.R. Porter fund!

Recently, the campus welcomed visiting artist Amy Kelly, whose collaboration with students resulted in striking self-portraits on wooden 2x4s, now adorning the campus as a permanent installation. This initiative highlights Hill Top's commitment to fostering creativity and providing enriching artistic experiences for its students.

Be sure to check it out as you drive up the Hill. Ms. Kelly and our students did fantastic work!

Prom!

Prom is a significant milestone in a student's high school journey, and at Hill Top Prep, it's no different! This year, many of our upper school students gathered at Radnor Valley Country Club to eat, laugh, and dance the night away. From dazzling dresses to sharp tuxedos, everyone was dressed to the nines!



PA State Tax Credit Program



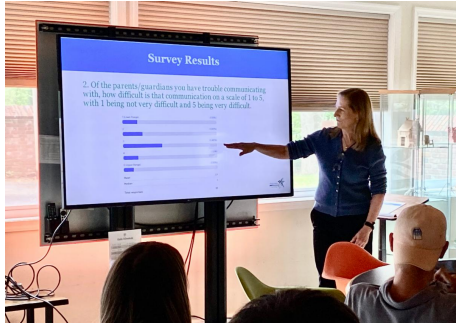
Pennsylvania
WORK SMART. LIVE HAPPY.

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

Professional Development



At the most recent In-service day, faculty and staff took part in a training from Cinda Ball P '16. Cinda is the founder of Brightside Parenting which provides support and frameworks for parents with neurodiverse children. The topic of the training was 'Parenting a Neurodiverse Child'.

Hill Top's 50th Commencement Ceremony to be held June 12th!



It's that time of the year again...graduation time! Be sure to mark your calendar's for Hill Top's 50th Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the class of 2024! This year's ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 12th at 10am.

Seniors and senior parents - be sure to check your emails for updates!

Volunteers Needed



Summer 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.

Summer 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.

Graduation Project Presentations

Recently, our Hill Top Seniors, and some Juniors, presented to the school community their graduation projects. Students worked all year on the project from conception to implementation to presentation. Project topics ranged from Eagle Scout endeavors to Internships as summer camp counselors. While all the projects were different, the students all took part in this large undertaking and learned not only skills needed for college and beyond, but even had some fun along the way!



Bean Scene's Final Brew



This school year's Bean Scene is a wrap! The shop was open for one last morning before the aprons were hung up for the year. Congrats to E/T 3 (who runs the shop) and their advisors on a successful year!

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!

Spring Brew



Hill Top's Spring Brew was such a success! Our students' art, music, and performance came together for an unforgettable evening! Family and friends immersed themselves in a vibrant celebration filled with creativity and entertainment. From live music to jaw-dropping performances, attendees experienced the magic of Spring Brew in all its glory.



Summer Camp - Registration Deadline is June 5th!

Believe it or not, summer will still be here. 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!**



New Board Member Mike Fogel, MA, ATR-BC, LPC



Mike Fogel, MA, ATR-BC, LPC is a board-certified art therapist, licensed professional counselor, entrepreneur, and author with over two decades of clinical experience.

Mike is an expert in treatment and advocacy for neurodiverse children with autism, ADHD and learning differences and also treats a wide range of childhood emotional-behavioral challenges at his private group therapy practice in Philadelphia, the Child and Family Art Therapy Center. Mike's work is

supercharged by heartfelt faith that every person has the innate capacity to heal, grow, and progress towards their vast personal potential.

Mike's love for neurodiverse children propelled him to develop the

comprehensive Art of Friendship Social-Coping Program® and curriculum, found Camp Pegasus, a therapeutic social skills day camp, and publish “The Social-Emotional Guidebook: Motivate Children with Social Challenges to Master Social & Emotional Coping Skills”. Mike passionately preaches that social skills are for everyone!

E/T Philabundance Donation



One of E/T's signature programs is their annual Dress Sale held in the early spring. During this event, they compile hundreds of prom and evening dresses that they sold at very reasonable prices (\$10 & \$20) to area youth. This year, E/T raised \$2,000 (or enough for 4,000 meals!) and donated the funds to Philabundance.

Congrats on a great year, E/T 2!



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

Mastering Social Skills: PEERS® Summer Boot Camp

PEERS® summer boot camps are designed to teach evidence-based social skills, helping individuals foster meaningful connections and gain self-confidence in social situations.



These small groups cater to adolescents, teens, young adults, and adults. Attendees learn targeted skills through didactic instruction, role-play demonstrations, and behavioral rehearsal exercises.

Boot camp sessions run daily for two weeks (Monday through Friday from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM), focusing on direct skill teaching. Skills covered include entering and exiting conversations, using electronic communication, choosing appropriate friendships, organizing get-togethers, and handling disagreements.

For more information about the summer boot camp or the NSC programming, please contact Mia Henry at mhenry@hilltopprep.org or visit www.hilltopprep.org/nsc.

**Summer Boot
Camp Info**

**Request More
Information**

SOS Spring Soiree



The Specialists of Schools Group (SOS) hosted their Spring Soiree at Hill Top Preparatory School. With members from local schools and professional practices, SOS continues to be an important resource for those who work with students in the greater Philadelphia area. They provide formal and informal opportunities to network with other professionals. Their mission is to

promote ongoing professional growth, increase awareness of local services in the Delaware Valley to students and encourage collaboration across disciplines in order to better meet the needs of schools and their students. Welcome SOS!



Please refer to the school calendar for all event details and/or changes.

- **June 3-4:** Final Exam Days
- **June 5-7:** Spirit Week Days
- **June 8th:** Head of School Cocktail Party for Parents of Seniors and Horizons
- **June 10th:** Pride Day Celebration
- **June 11th:** Last Day of School, Awards Ceremony, Picnic, and Graduation Rehearsal
- **June 12th:** Graduation!
- **June 15th-June 22nd:** Adventure Treks: Iceland!
- **June 24th:** Summer Camp Begins

**Full Event
Calendar**

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 looks like they are soaking up the sun & supporting Hill Top baseball. Was there a Hill Top baseball team? Let us know!

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



Let us know who is in the picture!

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.



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**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TO MAKE SURE
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Did you miss a past Hawk Talk issue? Find previous
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