

Uphill



HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL A Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

4600 Forsyth Avenue, Troy, Michigan 48085
248/823-3500 -- Fax: 248/823-3513
Website: <http://hill.troy.k12.mi.us/>



JANICE BRZEZINSKI, PRINCIPAL
Charla Lau, Head Teacher
Donna Shoemaker, Secretary
Teri Brune, Secretary

Hill's Mission Statement – Our purpose at Hill School is to provide a safe environment and ensure learning for all members of our school community.

February 18, 2011

Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools

Volume 10 * Issue 15

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

- Mid Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

- Mid Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

- 1:30 pm Red Wings Assembly - Whole School
- 7:00 pm Informance "Music is a Bass-ic Subject" - First Grade

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

- Bucketfillers - 9:05-9:50 Grades K-1
- Bucketfillers - 10:00-11:30 Ms. Herbert
- Bucketfillers - 12:45-2:15 Ms. Waters
- Bucketfillers - 2:15-3:40 Mrs. Cowger
- **Brain Freeze Day**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

- 1:30 pm March is Reading Month Kick-off Assembly



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST

- 7:00 pm School Board Mtg - Services Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND

- 7:00 pm 5th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert at Larson

THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD

- **Brain Freeze Day**
- 1:30-3:30 4th Grade Wax Museum
- 7:00 pm 5th Grade Band Concert @ Larson

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH



We can't wait...

... to see which **Detroit Red Wing player** will be visiting Hill School on Wednesday, February 23rd! Hill school will be hosting a very special assembly that will introduce students to the sport of hockey and will promote living a healthy and active lifestyle. This assembly is sponsored by the Detroit Red Wings Foundation and will be full of excitement and fun! A mystery Red Wing player will be joined by Red Wings radio play-by-play announcer Ken Kal to introduce students to the sport of hockey through a youth street and floor hockey initiative. The foundation will donate two full sets of floor hockey equipment complete with hockey sticks and goalie nets to Hill school.

The Red Wings school youth hockey program, funded by the Detroit Red Wings Foundation, was launched back in October 2010 to encourage students to stay active and healthy through the sport of hockey. Following the school visit, students will have the opportunity to enroll in a "**Try Hockey for Free**" clinic on March 26th at the Troy Sports Arena. The clinic, sponsored by the Red Wings Foundation and the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, teaches kids basic skills such as skating, puck handling and shooting. The Detroit Red Wings Foundation is an affiliate of Ilitch Charities, a 501 (c)(3) organization. The Foundation invests in the future of our community by providing funds and resources to worthy causes that contribute to the growth of the sport of hockey.

The assembly is for Hill students and staff and is not open to the public. **To honor our special Red Wing Day we encourage everyone to wear red to school on Wednesday!!**

Janice Brzezinski



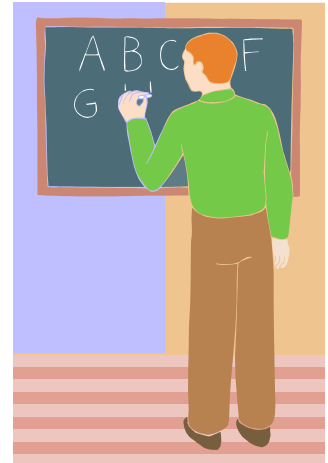
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

To avoid interruptions to instructional time, please note that the office will not call down to classrooms for children to pick up forgotten items. Should an item be brought into the office, it will be placed in the teacher's mailbox and your child will receive it after lunch. Please advise your child that should a lunch be delivered in the morning, it will be in the office for pick up at lunchtime. Children will continue to be called for medication and early release.

In addition, please make sure your child knows after school plans before coming to school if possible. Should changes occur, please try to call before lunch so that we may be able to put notes in teacher mailboxes and avoid phone calls to the room.

Also, please remember that all parents must report to the office to sign in and get a visitor badge before proceeding to the classroom. For safety reasons, in the morning please do not walk your child to their classroom as it is difficult to monitor the hallways and identify visitors. Walking to their classroom on their own fosters independence.

Thank you for your help in ensuring your child gets the maximum instructional time out of the day!



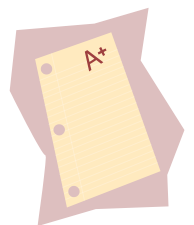
Mid-Winter Break - No School
Monday, Feb. 21st and Tuesday, February 22nd.
School resumes on Wednesday, February 23rd.



SPRING CONFERENCES -
MARCH 17TH

We are currently scheduling spring conferences and hope to get confirmation slips out next week.

NO HOMEWORK CLUB ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23RD AS OUR OAKLAND TUTORS ARE ON BREAK. WE WILL RESUME HOMEWORK CLUB ON MONDAY, FEB. 28TH.





5th Grade Bands and Strings Concert is re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd at Larson Middle School.

Strings students should report to the orchestra room at 6:00 p.m. Band students will report to the gym at 6:10 pm. The concert will begin at 7:00 pm and last approx. 40 minutes.



Our Locks of Love Assembly will be Monday, March 7th @ 9:30 am. If your child is interested, please have them obtain a permission slip from the office.



REMINDER:

Kindergarten Round-Up is March 24th @ 6:30 pm. Kindergarten packets should go out the beginning of March. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2011, or know of a neighbor or friend with a prospective kindergarten student, please ask them to contact our office.



**MARCH IS
READING
MONTH**



ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS

When your 5th grade child enters middle school this fall, they will need proof/documentation that the following immunizations are complete and up to date:

- DPT/Td (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus)
- OPV/IPV (Polio)
- HBV/HEPB (Hepatitis B)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)
- Varicella (shot or history of chickenpox disease)



If your child needs any of the above immunizations, please go to your health care provider or the Oakland County Health Department.



Grant Program Benefits Troy School District Students

The Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence has announced the winners of the fall 2010 grants. Educators within the Troy School District apply for the grant funding to support innovative learning programs. Six Hill School teachers received an average of \$500 each in grants.

Congratulations to:

- Cozy Reading and Listening Centers—Melodie Hartley
- Hands-on Learning—Danielle Davenport
- The Yoga Calm Project—Sheryl Butzine
- Technology Tools for PACE—Heidi Apol
- Story Grammar Marker Kit—Mary Johnson
- RAZ-Kids at Hill—Michelle Mundle



Approximately 87 grants were distributed district-wide in the fall cycle of the Troy Foundation grants. In order to be considered for a grant, teachers submit an application outlining the key points of the program, including the intended benefit, budget, number of students impacted, and how the project's results will be measured. The requests are then reviewed and judged by the Troy Foundation grant committee.

The Troy Foundations is a non-profit organization comprised of business and community volunteers. Three fundraisers, the Steppin' Out for Excellence Fun Walk, Train Show and Golf Classic are held each year to raise money to support the grant program. To learn more about the Troy Foundation and the grant programs offered, visit <http://www.troyfoundation.org>.

The mission of the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence is to strengthen the educational experience of Troy School District students by funding innovative learning opportunities entirely through private support. It is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BOUNTY IN A BACKPACK

Thank you to our Hill community for your food donations. The following are items we still need to meet our goals if you are able to help:

Kindergarten: 29 boxes of saltine crackers and 30 (18 oz) jar peanut butter

First Grade: 64 boxes macaroni & cheese and 33 individual pkgs of snacks such as cheese & crackers, fruit roll-ups, mini oreos, pudding cups

Second Grade: 40 (15 oz) cans spaghetti's and 2 (5 oz) cans tuna fish

Third Grade: 60 cans fruit (peaches, pears, mixed)

Fourth Grade: 20 cans vegetables (corn, green beans) and 45 cans chicken noodle soup

Fifth Grade: 97 (64 oz) apple juice in plastic bottles and 32 boxes breakfast bars (8 per box)

Please note that VG's has the following on sale next week:



Hunt's Snack Pack Pudding, 10/\$10

Mott's Apple Juice: 3/\$6

Spartan Brand PB: \$2.79

Spartan Fruit Snacks: 3/\$4

Chicken of the Sea Tuna: 2/\$3

Valu Time Mac & Cheese 3/\$1





Listed below is a list of Troy School Board members and their newly-elected position as of January 18, 2011:

Nancy Philippart, President
 Ida Edmunds, Vice-President
 Paula Fleming, Secretary
 Gary Hauff, Trustee
 M'Liz Malven, Trustee
 Todd Miletti, Trustee
 Wendy Underwood, Trustee



2011 Troy School Board Meetings through July 2011. Meetings are at 7:00 pm at the Services Building

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
 Tuesday, April 19, 2011
 Tuesday, May 3, 2011
 Tuesday, June 7, 2011 @ Athens
 Tuesday, June 21, 2011
 Tuesday, July 12, 2011

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

We have Hill students on two teams headed to Destination Imagination Regionals on Saturday, February 26th!
 Good Luck Everyone!



Hill Goes Green



A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
 Remember, motor oil never wears out, it just gets dirty - please recycle!

ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE @ HILL

Mark your calendars - Our annual Red Cross blood drive will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.



Please note that you can continue to donate blood up through February 2nd and still give at Hill on March 30th!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/28: 6:30 Pack 1705 Meeting
- 3/7:- 3/9 Hearing Tests Grades K, 2, 4
- 3/7: Locks of Love
- 3/7: 6:30 Pack 1705 Meeting
- 3/8: 3rd Gr. International Festival
- 3/10: Market Day Internet Deadline
- 3/14: Fun Day Pictures
- 3/14: 6:30 Pack 1705 Meeting
- 3/16: 7:00 pm PTO Meeting
- 3/16: Market Day Pick-up
- 3/17: ½ Day - Afternoon & Evening Conferencés

"No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive"
~ Mahatma Gandhi



Hill Elementary Cultural Corner
Did you know...

February is "Black History Month".

Some well known inventions by African Americans:

- Nathaniel Alexander was the first to patent the folding chair.
- C.B. Brooks invented the street sweeper in 1896.
- Alfred Cralle patented the first ice cream scoop.
- Surgeon Charles R. Drew is often credited with the invention of the first large-scale blood bank.
- Otis Boykin invented electronic control devices for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the control unit for a pacemaker.
- Thomas L. Jennings was the first African-American to receive a patent in 1821. It was for a dry-cleaning process. He used the money earned from the patent to purchase relatives out of slavery and support abolitionist causes.

Other Multicultural Celebrations in February:

February 3 - Chinese New Year, Vietnamese New Year

February 4 - Independence Day in Sri Lanka

February 6 - Waitangi Day in New Zealand

February 8 - Vasant Panchami - Hindu

February 15 - National Day - Serbia

February 17 - Independence Day - Kosovo

February 21 - International Mother Language Day - United Nations

February 22- Abu Simbel Festival- Egypt

February 23 - Republic Day - Guyana

February 25 -National Day - Kuwait

February 27 - Independence Day - Dominican Republic

*For more information, or to contribute to the Hill Cultural Corner,
please email Kelly Jones @ wronajones@comcast.net or
Crystal LaPree @ cjeon16@gmail.com*

PTO UPDATE!

In keeping with our Green School Program, Hill School is recycling juice pouches and glue sticks!

Beginning the week of February 14, 2011 we will begin recycling **juice pouches** in the school cafeteria. Instead of throwing out our used juice pouches, we will collect the pouches (not boxes) during lunch. After we have collected 250, we can ship them free to **TerraCycle**. They will recycle the juice pouches into new products, from pencil pouches to fences. If you'd like to join us and save and send in pouches from home, please make sure they are empty and remove the straw. Place them in a Ziploc bag if there is more than one, and have your child bring them to the lunch room at lunch time to turn them in.

We will also start to collect **Elmer's glue containers** for recycling. There will be a collection box in the Teacher's work room, if you have any empty glue sticks or bottles that you'd like to turn in. The teachers will be adding their used bottles/sticks throughout the year.

Recycling these products cost us nothing but a small amount of time!



For more information about the program, or to check out some cool recycling facts, go to www.terracycle.net



Respect & Responsibility ... Reaching Out to Hill Parents

February
2011
Volume 7
Issue 4

Routines lead to better family life

Routines have many benefits for children, including better behavior, less stress and improved focus. Now research shows they even reduce illness! To create and follow routines, it helps to emphasize:

- **Mornings.** Good mornings start the night before with packing lunches and school bags, choosing outfits and going to bed on time. Then your child only has to brush her teeth, dress and eat breakfast before school.
- **Afternoons.** Whether your child studies with you or another caregiver, it should happen at the same time each day. Remember, some kids need a snack or exercise before hitting the books. A break during homework time can help, too.
- **Evenings.** Family meals build stronger relationships. They also offer an opportunity for kids to take on regular chores, such as setting and clearing the table. Plan some evening "down time" too. The goal should be to relax and have fun.
- **Nights.** Research shows that a regular bedtime improves sleep. To help your child transition from a busy day, encourage quiet activities, such as reading or chatting about the day. See if you can get to bed on time, too!



Source: P. Jaksa, Ph.D., "Organization Help for ADHD Children (and Their Parents!)," ADDitude, www.additudemag.com/adhd/article/683.html.

Make chores cheerier by adding incentives

Doing chores builds character, so don't let your child wiggle—or whine—her way out of them!

Instead, offer an incentive the next time you give her a job to do.

Here's how it might look:

- "When you finish the dishes, we can watch a little TV."
- "After you load your backpack for tomorrow, how about a game of cards?"
- "Once we shovel the driveway, let's build a snowman!"



Source: "General Chore Tips," Successful Family Chores, http://successfulfamilychores.com/SFC_Parenting_Magazine/ChoreTips.phtml.

Teach your child to 'unplug'

Recent studies show that kids consume *over seven hours* of electronic media every day, whether via TV, mp3 player, computer or cell phone. And that means less time spent studying, playing ball or interacting with the family.



To help your child "unplug":

- **Make television an occasion.** Let him watch his favorite program. But when it's over, so is TV time.
- **Set an example.** If he has to turn off his phone, turn yours off, too.

Source: M. Cohen, "Break Your Family's Tech Addiction," Redbook, August 2010, www.redbookmag.com.

Show your child that irresponsibility comes at a price!

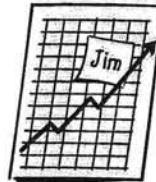


Did you remind your child over and over again to return her books to the library? And did she ignore you?

Make her pay the fine in person—with her own money. By insisting that she take care of the fine (which will likely be very small), you may inspire her to be more responsible in the future.

Parents' expectations are powerful!

Research shows that one of the best ways to help your student succeed is to *expect success*.



This simple approach has three parts:

1. **Support** your child's education.
 2. **Believe** in him.
 3. **Expect** him to succeed.
- You'll both be glad you did!

Source: A. Holcomb, "Back-to-school 2008: Parents' expectations can pave path to success," mlive.com, http://blog.mlive.com/kalamazoo_gazette_extra/2008/08/backtoschool_2008_parents_expe.html.

Teach respect by example

When children respect themselves, it's easier for them to respect others. That's just one reason to help your child feel good about herself. To do this:

- **Have a positive attitude.** Remember that genuine compliments build self-esteem. "You returned your library books on time. How responsible! Now you can check out more!"
- **Encourage accomplishments.** When she's ready to learn a new skill, help her succeed! The process of setting and reaching reasonable goals builds kids' confidence.
- **Be a role model.** Give your child love, patience, consistency, honesty and attention. Make respect a general priority. Your words and actions should say, "I value you and others."



Source: B. D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., "Respect: The Sixth Core Strength," Scholastic, <http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/bruceperry/respect.htm>.

Questions & Answers

Q: I enforce a consequence when my fifth grader talks back to me, but it never helps. As soon as the penalty ends, he goes right back to being rude. What can I do?

A: First, don't give up on the idea of firm and consistent discipline. It's too important to abandon. But if your child seems immune to the consequences you're enforcing, it's time to ramp things up. In other words, make your consequences "catastrophic" (to him).

That doesn't mean they should involve physical punishment—hitting is never okay—but they should be serious enough to get your child's attention. The more a penalty affects him, the more likely he'll be to change his behavior.

Examples of "catastrophic" consequences include:

- **The permanent loss of a toy or other item.** That's right: Give it away; don't just take it away temporarily. Warn your child ahead of time that if his back-talking continues, you'll be donating something of his—such as a CD or a game—to charity. The next time he's rude, offer him a single warning. If it falls on deaf ears, remove the item.
- **A tedious time-out.** Your child may not flinch at a time-out if it means a few minutes of relaxing in his room. So, find the dulllest spot you can think of (such as a hallway or staircase) and park him there for 15 minutes or so. The risk of "dying of boredom" may be all it takes to keep him from behaving rudely next time.



Source: Dr. Ruth Peters, *Laying Down the Law: The 25 Laws of Parenting to Keep Your Kids On Track, Out of Trouble, and (Pretty Much) Under Control*, ISBN: 1-57954-773-7, Rodale.

The articles in this newsletter are reprinted with the permission of
The Parent Institute,
an organization which publishes research based articles.

Girls can bully, too

Bullying isn't just an issue with boys. Research shows that it's equally common among girls.

And while girls are less likely to physically attack a classmate, girl-girl bullying tends to:

- **Involve more people.**
- **Last longer** than boy-boy bullying.
- **Be just as painful** for the victim.)

If your child is being bullied, go to her teacher or principal for help. She can't do her best in school if she's constantly being picked on.

Source: A. Sachs, "How to Bully-Proof Young Girls," Time.com, www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2013184,00.html?hpt=T2.

Prevent homework headaches

Don't let a tricky homework assignment lead to a meltdown! Before your child starts working, have him follow these steps:

1. **Read** the directions aloud.
2. **Underline** action words such as *circle* or *alphabetize*.
3. **Number** the steps.
4. **Complete** the work.

When he's finished, help him go back and check whether he followed the steps correctly.

This step-by-step approach may prevent tears and headaches.

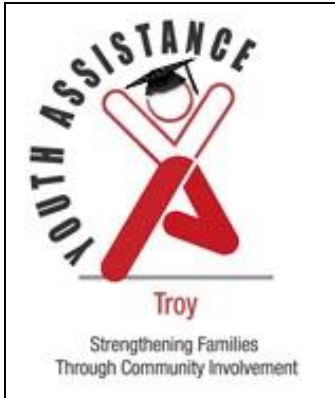
Source: Jeanne Shay Schumm, Ph.D., *How to Help Your Child with Homework*, ISBN: 1-57542-168-2, Free Spirit Publishing.



Brought to you by the
Respect & Responsibility
Committee

Co-Chairs:
Sher Butzine (Social Worker) &
Karen Hurst (Learning Resource Room)

Martha Babcock (Computers),
Cindy Brennan (2nd Grade),
Lynsey Helfer (Special Needs),
Shelley Mundle (Learning Resource),
Jerry Shankin (5th Grade)



Dollars for Education

Take a Chance – Give a Chance!

- 50/50 raffle winnings up to **\$25,000** for a 529 Education Savings Program (or 40% cash lump sum payout)
- **Terrific odds** – only 1,000 tickets to be sold
- **\$50** per ticket (cash or check only)
- For more information, official rules and ticket purchases, go to www.troyyouthassistance.org, email to tyadollars4education@gmail.com or call the TYA office at 248-823-5095
- **Drawing** of the winning ticket will be May 11, 2011 during the TYA Youth Recognition Event at Athens High School Auditorium—need not be present to win
- Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket
- Raffle to benefit Troy Youth Assistance

Troy Youth Assistance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is committed to strengthening youth and families by preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, child neglect and child abuse through community involvement.

Dollars for Education is conducted under Michigan raffle license number R09651.