



HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
**A National Exemplary Blue Ribbon 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  
 Cathy Peterson, 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.*

November 18, 2011

Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools

Volume 12 \* Issue 6

Upcoming Events:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

- ✿ 8:30-9:00 am Before School Title One (Rm 6)
- ✿ 10:15-11 am Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast (Café)
- ✿ 4-4:45 pm After School Homework Club (Media)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

NO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

NO SCHOOL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

NO SCHOOL



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

- ✿ 8:30-9:00 am Before School Title One (Rm 6)
- ✿ 4-4:45 pm (after school) Homework Club (LGI)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

Market Day Order Due to School

- ✿ 12-1 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Gingerbread Houses (Art Rm)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

Brain Freeze Day

Market Day Internet Orders Due

- ✿ 8-9:00 am Before School Choir Club (Stage)
- ✿ 8:30-9:00 am Before School Title One (Rm. 6)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

- ✿ 8:30-9:00 am Before School Title One (Rm. 6)
- ✿ 1-1:15 pm 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. For Circuit Boards (LGI)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL....

As my favorite day of the year, Thanksgiving, approaches I wanted to take the time to say thank you to this truly amazing community. The students, parents and staff of Hill School are extremely warm, caring individuals. We are reminded every morning by our student K.I.D.S. anchors (on the morning announcements) that "**we are a bucketfilling school**" and "**to be a bucketfiller .**" I can honestly say *my bucket gets filled every day* by the thoughtful actions of our community. I do want to thank the Hill community for the privilege of being part of this caring community.

Thank you to...

... **our students** for working so hard and achieving such great accomplishments that was evident on your report card

... **our teachers** for their dedication in spending many hours composing such lovely, detailed positive comments on each of the students report card

...**our parents** for attending conferences to strengthen the powerful partnership between parents and teachers ( a special thank you for the parents that prepared dinner for staff on Wednesday, it was delicious and greatly appreciated)

...**the entire community** for the contagious smile or kind greeting shared every day!

So as my very favorite day approaches we can sum that day

*All in a Word:*

By Aileen Fisher

T for time to be together, turkey, talk and tangy weather.

H for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.

A for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.

N for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to remember.

K for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.

S for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds.

That spells ~~~THANKS~~~ for joy in living and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

*Enjoy your weekend!*

*Janice Brzezinski*



## Brrr.....IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!



The weather changes rapidly and, while it may seem nice in the morning, by recess time, the temperature may have dropped significantly. Please remember to pack hat, gloves and extra socks, as the office does not stock these items. Also, an extra pair of pants is always a good idea especially now that the wet weather is here and there are puddles on the playground.

## VACATION TIME!



With winter vacation coming (last day of school is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>), please remember to call in any absences due to vacations (and sickness) to our attendance hotline at 248-823-3501. If you send an email to the teacher, please ask him/her to copy the office as well. Thank you!



## PTO NOVEMBER CHARITY OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

Our PTO charity opportunity for November is Bounty in a Backpack, a food drive designed to help struggling Troy families. If you are able to contribute, the food request is broken down by grade level:

Kindergarteners: 2 cans Spaghetios (15 oz) AND 2 cans chicken noodle soup

1st Graders: 2 pkgs Chicken flavor Ramen noodles (3 oz) AND 2 cans fruit (pears, peaches, mixed fruit)

2nd Graders: 1 box breakfast bars (8 per box) AND 4 indiv. snacks (cheese & crackers, fruit roll-ups, mini oreos, pudding cups, etc.)

3rd Graders: 2 cans vegetables (corn, green beans) AND 2 cans tuna (5 oz).

4th Graders: 1 jar peanut butter (18 oz) AND 1 box saltines (4 sleeves of crackers)

5th Graders: 2 juice boxes AND 2 boxes mac and cheese

## 2011-12 PTO Directories are here!



Thanks to all the hard work done by Systems Duplicating Company, Inc. (SDCI), we have a wonderful and easy to use directory. SDCI completed the complicated task of getting a large project done in such a speedy time frame with precision and total customer satisfaction. Check out the back cover of your directory for more information about SDCI. If you did not pre-order one, there are still some copies left in the front office for the following prices:

1@ \$5

2@ \$7

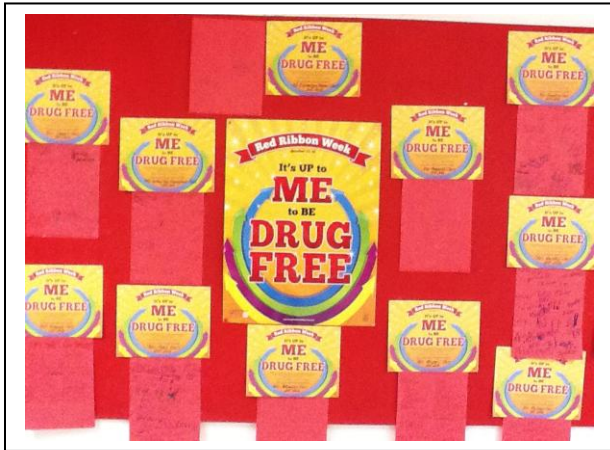
3@\$9



# Red Ribbon Week



Last week's Detroit Red Wings School Assembly was the perfect way to celebrate our successful red ribbon week! Red Ribbon week, supported by Troy Families for SAFE HOMES was full of activities to remind kids to be DRUG FREE. On Friday three representatives from the Red Wing Foundation in conjunction with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan brought us an interactive assembly designed to provide a positive message for Hill students about the importance of education and a healthy lifestyle. This was a high spirited assembly that focused on the importance of EDUCATION and DEDICATION. The assembly concluded with a Teachers vs. Students Shoot-Out with the students celebrating a victory!



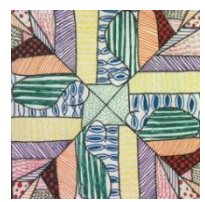


Congratulations to our new Student Council representatives:

- |                        |           |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Mr. Pennewell:         | Alek S.   | Brooke R.  |
| Mr. Shankin:           | Jimmy R.  | Hiba E.    |
| Mr. McEvoy:            | Syed D.   | Anna C.    |
| Mrs. Cowger:           | Dhruv M.  | Nicole S.  |
| Ms. Herbert:           | Maks S.   | Madison K. |
| Mrs. Newingham/Gordon: | Jacob T.  | Makayla P. |
| Ms. Mulligan:          | Seamus M. | Julia V.   |



# ART ON DISPLAY



Congratulations to the following 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students whose art work was chosen for display! Their art will be hung at the SOC Credit Union in Troy through November 30<sup>th</sup>! Great job artists!

- Angela K.
- Aaniyah B.
- Bella S.
- Allison L.
- Chelsea C.

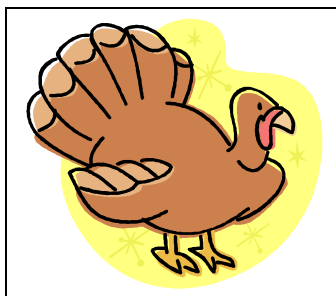
- Justin C.
- Nidhi P.
- Carter B.
- Irene L.
- Nicole S.

- Haley S.
- Myra C.
- Aidan H.
- Liam C.
- Austin L.

- Gabe E.
- Grace J.
- Delaney B.
- Kira H.
- Ryan D.

The SOC Credit Union is located at:  
 4555 Investment Dr  
 Troy, MI 48098  
 (248)-641-0088

# Happy Thanksgiving



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/23 – 11/25 NO SCHOOL
- 11/30: Market Day Orders Due
- 12/1: Market Day Internet Orders Due
- 12/7: Market Day Pick up
- 12/7: 4-6:30 pm Holiday Shoppe (LGI)
- 12/8: 4-6:30 pm Holiday Shoppe (LGI)
- 12/15: 7:00 pm PTO Meeting
- 12/19/11-1/2/12: Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
- 1/3/12: School Resumes
- 1/11/12: Market Day Orders Due
- 1/12/12: Market Day Internet Orders Due
- 1/16/12: Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
- 1/17/12: Vision Testing – preschool, Gr. 1, 3, 5
- 1/17/12: 7:00 pm Festival of Song
- 1/17/12: 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (Svc. Bldg)
- 1/18/12: Vision testing continues
- 1/18/12: Market Day Pick-up
- 1/19/12: Vision testing continues
- 1/20/12: Vision testing continues (if needed)
- 1/23/12: 6:15-8:15 pm PTO Skateworld Event
- 1/26/12: End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period
- 1/27/12: Half-Day Dismissal @ 12:45 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/2/12: 7 pm Band/Strings Concert @ Larson (Gym)
- 2/6/12: Report Cards sent home
- 2/7/12: "Tar Wars" – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr.
- 2/8/12: "Choose Wisely" – 4<sup>th</sup> Gr.
- 2/8/12: Market Day Order Due
- 2/9/12: Market Day Internet Orders Due
- 2/9/12: 7:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Informance
- 2/13/12: Hearing Testing – preschool, Gr. K, 2, 4
- 2/15/12: Hearing testing continues
- 2/15/12: 9-1:30 pm 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Field trip to Detroit Historical Museum
- 2/15/12: Market Day Pick up
- 2/16/12: Hearing testing continues
- 2/16/12: 7:00 pm PTO Meeting
- 2/17/12: Hearing testing continues if needed
- 2/20/12-2/21/12: Mid-winter break-NO SCHOOL
- 2/22/12: School Resumes
- 2/23/12: 6:00 pm Science Night
- 2/28/12: 9:20 am "Got Caught" – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr.
- 3/1/12: 10 am – 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. International Festival Performance
- 3/1/12: 6 pm – 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. International Festival Performance
- SPRING RECESS: 4/2/12-4/6/12



## Purchase with Purpose

Drop Off Orders: 11/30

Internet Orders: 12/1

Pick Up: 12/7 2:30-3:30 pm Art Room

### December Promotions

1) Market Day has brought back the option giving foods as a gift. Please check out <http://www.marketdaydirect.com/> for more information.

2) **The Free Bonus Items are:**

Free 7 oz Mac & Cheese & Free 1lb Italian Meatballs with \$90 purchase (by entering code **DECBONUS** in promo code box)

3) **Cookie Bonus Days:**

Choose from **10** different flavors:

Holiday Cookie Shapes	Chocolate Chunk
Chocolate Mint Chip	Lemon Cooler
M&M Cookie	Oatmeal Raisin
Peanut Butter	Snickerdoodle
Sugar Free Chocolate Chip	White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

\* **the more you buy the more money we make!**

3) **Insulated Bag:** **3** qualifying purchases of **\$40** b/w the months of **Oct-Dec**.

4) **New items for the month are:**

Variety Cheesecake (Triple Chocolate, New York & Strawberry - pre-sliced) **\$13**

Stuffed Rigatoni w/Italian sausage 4-10oz trays **\$15.99**

Taco Pizzas 2-12 inch **\$8.99**

5) **New Customer** enter promo code **NEWFIVE** and receive **\$5** off a **\$25** purchase



# Respect & Responsibility ... Reaching Out to Hill Parents

November  
2011  
Volume 8  
Issue 2

## Increase motivation for homework

Why do kids complain about homework? Because they don't like it, of course! But the reasons they don't like it vary. So ask your child, "What is it about homework that bothers you?" Then listen to what he has to say and respond helpfully.

Common homework complaints include:

- **"It's not important."** Homework may not seem useful—especially if your child has already mastered a skill. But finishing it every day improves responsibility and study habits.
- **"It takes too long."** Teach your child time management skills. If this doesn't fix the problem, talk with the teacher about other possible causes.
- **"I can't find it."** Your child may need advice about how to get organized. Develop a system that makes sense to your child.
- **"I need help."** It's tough, but critical, for your child to admit it when he's confused. Encourage your child to ask you or the teacher for help when he needs it.
- **"We always argue about it."** It's not unusual for parents and kids to disagree about homework. In addition to brainstorming and solving problems together, try giving your child some control, such as picking between two reasonable study times.



Source: S. Kruger, "Homework: What To Do When Students DON'T Do It," [ParentInvolvementMatters.org](http://ParentInvolvementMatters.org), [www.parentinvolvementmatters.org/articles/homework.html](http://www.parentinvolvementmatters.org/articles/homework.html).

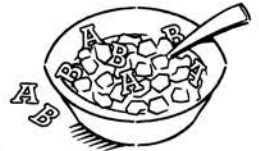
## One change can make every school day better

Here's a simple routine that can boost school performance every day: Have your child start the day with a nutritious breakfast.

Research shows that eating breakfast:

- **Increases** children's energy.
- **Improves** attention.
- **Raises** grades on tests.

If your child resists eating in the morning, tempt her with creative options, such as dinner for breakfast. Sometimes waking up early helps, too, so hunger has time to build before breakfast.



Source: H. Bennett, "Ever wonder ... why eating breakfast is so important?" *The Washington Post*, April 10, 2011, The Washington Post Company.

## It's okay to be imperfect

You work really hard to be a perfect parent. But raising kids is an inexact science. There's no such thing as doing it perfectly.



Instead, be honest about your strengths and weaknesses. If you're especially patient, for instance, give yourself a pat on the back.

But what if you have trouble being consistent with discipline or modeling proper behavior? Admit it to yourself—and commit to doing better.

Source: P. Foxman, Ph.D., *The Worried Child: Recognizing Anxiety in Children and Helping Them Heal*, Hunter House Publishers.

Don't just praise your child when she does the right thing. Tell her *specifically* how her actions made a difference. "You did a terrific job washing the dishes for me! Now I have extra time to play catch with you!"



Pointing out how her actions have led to something positive—in this case, extra playtime with you—may inspire your child to pitch in next time, too.

Source: R. Burke and others, *Common Sense Parenting: Using Your Head as Well as Your Heart to Raise School-Aged Children*, Boys Town Press.

## Does attitude trump ability?

Intelligence matters, but maybe not as much as you think.



According to a long-term study of 1,500 gifted students, it was not always the "smartest" students who performed best. It was the students who showed the most perseverance.

So teach your child to stick with it when the going gets tough. Cultivating a "never give up" attitude can make a big difference for him in the long run.

Source: M. Borba, Ed.D., *No More Misbehavior: 38 Difficult Behaviors and How to Stop Them*, Jossey-Bass.

## Practice asking for help and support

Children need parents' help to succeed in school. No matter how much support you give, however, your child still needs to know how to speak up when she feels overwhelmed. For example, "I don't understand division. Can you explain it?" Or "Brian called me stupid at school. I didn't know what to say." To make this easier:



- **Tell your child it's admirable to ask for help.** It takes a strong person to say, "I can't do this alone." Asking for help is a sign of wanting to succeed!
- **Role-play ways to ask for help.** Practice them together. Read stories about people who needed, requested and received help. Be willing to ask for help yourself.

Source: M. H. Raskind and R. J. Goldberg, "Life Success For Students With Learning Disabilities: A Parent's Guide," LD OnLine, [www.ldonline.org/article/12836](http://www.ldonline.org/article/12836).

## Questions & Answers

**Q:** Anytime my child assumes she'll do poorly in class, that's exactly what happens! How can I turn her negative attitude around?

**A:** You can do it by showing her that you assume she'll do well! In other words, set high expectations for her. You'll be demonstrating that you believe in her—and that getting a good grade doesn't happen by chance. It's evidence of what she has known all along!

To set high expectations for your child:

- **Be clear.** Saying, "I expect you to do better in class" is too vague. So give specifics. "I expect you to make school a priority. That means your homework needs to be finished *before* you watch TV, not after." This way, you're not punishing her by taking away something she enjoys; you're merely insisting that schoolwork comes first.
- **Be realistic.** If she struggles in language arts, don't suddenly announce, "I expect you to get every word right on this week's spelling test." Instead, give her a more reasonable challenge. "I expect you to spend five extra minutes each night studying your spelling words." Not only is this a reachable goal, but it's one that may directly impact her grades.
- **Be supportive.** When she fails to meet a goal—and she will sometimes—let your child know you still believe in her. "I know you're disappointed about your science quiz, honey, but you'll do better next time. Let's go over the questions you missed and figure out what went wrong."



Source: W. Parker, "Setting Appropriately High Expectations for Children," About.com, <http://tinyurl.com/43t872p>.

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The Parent Institute,  
an organization which publishes research based articles.

## Stay calm and carry on

If you tend to lose your cool the moment your child loses his, it's time to regroup. The calmer you remain during meltdowns, the less frequent those meltdowns may become.

To keep your composure:

- **Don't take** your child's behavior personally.
  - **Don't blurt out** cruel remarks.
- If you must, walk away for five minutes. And if you end up saying something in anger that you now regret? Apologize.

Source: "Parents Find Staying Calm Is Key to Curbing Kid's Poor Behavior," Parenting.org, <http://tinyurl.com/68orwaj>.

## It's Thanksgiving for a reason!

Many countries hold festivals to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.



Here's how you can emphasize the *thanks* in your Thanksgiving celebration and encourage an "attitude of gratitude" in your child:

- **Talk about it.** What does it mean to be grateful? Chat about it on Thanksgiving.
- **Write it down.** Have your child list some things he's grateful for. Make your own list, too.
- **Show appreciation.** Did someone do a kind deed for your family? Help your child create—and then send—a thank-you card.

Brought to you by the  
**Respect and Responsibility  
Committee**

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

Martha Babcock (Computer Technology)  
Cindy Brennan (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)  
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Jerry Shankin (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)